

LDNPA Sustainability Strategy

Draft V1.0 2/9/2025

To be review by 2/9/2028

Introduction

For most of human history, people didn't have much more than local impact on the planet. The materials we used (such as firewood or water) and the waste we created (such as smoke or sewage) could be absorbed by the earth's natural systems. People didn't need to consider their impacts because the planet seemed to be big enough to accommodate it.

However, since the industrial revolution, and especially since the 1950s, this has changed fundamentally. The level of resources that we take from the earth, and the amount of waste and pollution we create, is now so great that we have precipitated an ecological and environmental crisis. This is manifested for example in climate breakdown and loss of biodiversity. In short, **our use of the earth is not sustainable**. We need to make fundamental changes to our use of natural resources if we are to avoid even more fundamental changes to other aspects of our ways of life.

Everything we do has a bearing on how sustainable our lifestyles are, and every nation, community, organisation, and individual has a responsibility to live and behave more sustainably – including the Lake District National Park Authority. Old ways of doing things have created the crises we are now witnessing, so we need to be prepared to think and do things very differently. The Authority's vision is that 'the Lake District National Park will be an inspirational example of sustainable development in action', so we need to not just make sure we're sustainable ourselves but also inspire others to become more sustainable.

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out a vision for what we think a sustainable National Park Authority looks like, to celebrate what we're doing well, to work out where we're falling short, and to map out how we're going to make up the difference. Some goals will be more easily achieved than others, and our resources are finite; so although we want to be visionary, we will also need to be realistic about how quickly we can progress towards each goal. We also have to recognise that sometimes there are conflicts between different areas of sustainability. Where these arise, we will endeavour to pursue the best overall outcome and give an explanation for the compromise.

Context

There is already an international, national and local context which shapes our sustainability ambitions; this includes:

- United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Paris Climate Agreement
 - UK Climate Change Act (2008)
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- UK government's Greening Government Commitments (GGCs)
- 30 by 30 Land for Nature's Recovery initiative
- Zero Carbon Cumbria
- LDNP Partnership's Management Plan
- World Heritage Site designation and Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value

Scope

This Strategy mainly relates to the LDNPA as an organisation, with sustainability across the wider National Park being covered by the Lake District National Park Partnership's Management Plan. However, there is some overlap between these; for instance, nearly all of the Authority's property ownership is within the National Park, and some of our policies – such as relating to transport - have a direct bearing on the wider Park.

Principles

In this Strategy we aim to be:

- Visionary and ambitious – although tempered by reality
- Comprehensive – encompassing all Authority activity
- Long-term rather than short-sighted
- Transparent – no green-wash!
- Flexible – to adapt to changing understanding or circumstances
- Globally minded but locally focused

Theme areas

In this Strategy the various sustainability themes will be organised into the following areas (although there is lots of overlap between them):

1. Climate change
 2. Land management
 3. Resource efficiency and waste
 4. Water
 5. Processes and decision-making
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6. Influence

7. Monitoring and reporting

In each section we will set out an ultimate goal illustrating 'what a sustainable Authority looks like', and some interim goals as stepping stones in cases where the ultimate goal is not realistically achievable in the short term. We will list the objectives representing steps towards that goal, and provide some example actions.

1 Climate change

More accurately referred to as the climate crisis, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that recent drastic changes to the earth's climate and weather patterns are the result of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. These are mostly related to the burning of fossil fuels, but also to habitat degradation such as deforestation and peat erosion.

Our response to this needs to be two-fold:

Mitigation – we must do whatever we can to reduce our organisational greenhouse gas emissions and offset them with at least an equal amount of carbon sequestration.

Adaptation – the world's climate is already changing and is set to continue to change. We need to plan for these changes in how we manage our property and other aspects of our operation.

1.1 Mitigation

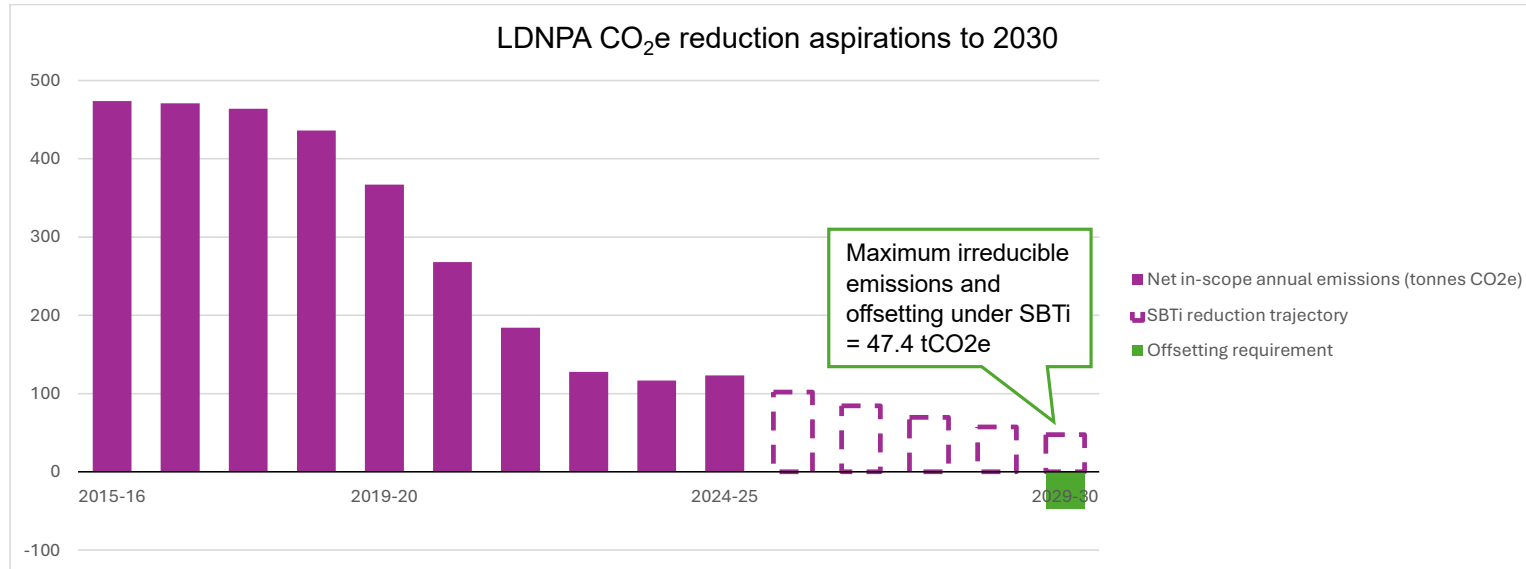
Ultimate goal:

- **To be at least net zero across all of Scope 1, 2 and 3¹ by 2050**

Interim goal:

- **To be at least net zero across our defined Scope by 2030.**
According to Science-Based Target Initiative principles, this requires at least 90% actual reduction of emissions from a 2015 baseline, with no more than 10% being offset.

¹ Please see Appendix for explanation of Scope 1, 2 and 3



Objectives:

1.1.1 Reduce our emissions as much as possible from all sources, including:-

(i) Bring each building as close to carbon neutrality as possible regarding its fabric, facilities and how we manage them

• What we've achieved so far:

- Investigated the energy efficiency of all our buildings
- Fabric improvements such as improved insulation in all our most significant buildings
- Removed fossil-fuel heating as the main heat source from all except two of our buildings, and installed low carbon heating in five of our most significant buildings
- Switched to a renewables tariff for all of our electricity

- **Next steps:**

- Replace fossil-fuel with low-carbon heating systems in two remaining buildings
- Install solar PV where this can make a significant contribution to the building's electricity consumption
- Pursue further energy efficiency through fabric interventions and new technology

Actions:

- 1.1.1(i) A1 Replace gas heating with low-carbon heating in Moot Hall (if retained)
- 1.1.1(i) A2 Replace gas heating with low-carbon heating in Coniston Info Centre (if retained)
- 1.1.1(i) A3 Investigate remaining sites for where solar PV will make a difference (carbon or financially)
- 1.1.1(i) A4 Investigate remaining sites for where energy-efficiency improvements will make a significant difference

(ii) Minimise emissions from our transport through improved technology and minimising the need to travel

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Replaced all our non-4x4 fleet with electric vehicles
- Instigated a 'travel hierarchy' to minimise mileage and use of diesel vehicles
- Adopted a Fleet Strategy which governs our aspirations to maximise the sustainability of our vehicle fleet

- **Next steps:**

- Find a suitable low-carbon alternative for 4x4 vehicles
- Refine travel hierarchy and integrate with fleet strategy and travel policies to achieve most efficient travel and lowest emissions
- Continue to work with staff to reduce overall mileage and emissions
- Investigate more efficient travel options for Members and volunteers

Actions:

- 1.1.1(ii) A1 Annual cost-benefit assessment on low-emission alternative for diesel 4x4s
- 1.1.1(ii) A2 Refine travel hierarchy and integrate with fleet strategy and travel policies
- 1.1.1(ii) A3 Incorporate travel efficiency into staff sustainability training [6.1 A1]
- 1.1.1(ii) A4 Investigate further opportunities to change policies or systems to encourage mileage reduction for Members and Volunteers

- Work with staff to explore ways to reduce commuting emissions 1.1.1(ii) A5 Investigate staff commuting and home-working behaviour to highlight opportunities for mileage and carbon reduction

(iii) Explore low-carbon alternatives for operational equipment and improved operational efficiency

• **What we've achieved so far:**

- Some equipment such as chainsaws have been replaced with battery-electric versions
- Some boats run on LPG rather than petrol or diesel

• **Next steps:**

- Find a suitable low-carbon option for quad bikes
- Find alternatives to fossil-fuel-powered equipment

Actions:

- 1.1.1(iii) A1 Annual cost/benefit assessment on low-emission alternative for quad bikes
- 1.1.1(iii) A2 Annual cost/benefit assessment on low-emission alternatives for fossil-fuel-powered equipment

(iv) Get a better understanding of our procurement-related emissions and how these can be reduced

• **What we've achieved so far:**

- Sustainability guidelines have been incorporated into our updated procurement process

• **Next steps:**

- Pursue a more detailed understanding of the carbon cost of different aspects of our procurement
- Improve our procurement processes to minimise carbon costs due to materials, sources, and transportation

Actions:

- 1.1.1(iv) A1 Prioritise areas of procurement for investigation of carbon impact
- 1.1.1(iv) A2 Work with relevant teams to see where impact can be reduced and/or supply chains can be influenced to be more sustainable

1.1.2 Scrutinise new initiatives to ensure that they either don't increase emissions, or incorporate an equivalent (or better) sustainability compensation

• **What we've achieved so far:**

- Introduced sustainability as a consideration in the Capital Bids and project management processes

- **Next steps:**

- Consider introducing a more formalised 'Sustainability Impact Assessment' in decision-making, proportional to the scale of the initiative

Actions:

- 1.1.2 A1 Incorporate SIA into sustainability training [6.1 A1]
- 1.1.2 A2 Investigate models and usage of SIAs

1.1.3 Explore improved ways of working to reduce emissions through behavioural change

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Initiated 'Service carbon budgets' to encourage each team to take ownership of reducing their share of emissions
- Allowance of hybrid working for most staff to enable flexibility and minimise unnecessary travel

- **Next steps:**

- Consider greater flexibility in staff working locations
- Schedule meeting times and locations to enable use of public and/or active transport
- Improve communication with staff regarding their contribution towards our carbon-saving efforts
- Maximise staff and Member awareness of climate issues and buy-in to Authority sustainability strategies, for instance through compulsory sustainability and/or climate literacy training

Actions:

- 1.1.3 A1 Incorporate awareness of flexibility of location into sustainability training [6.1 A1]
- 1.1.3 A2 Review role location policy and whether greater flexibility could reduce overall mileage

1.1.4 Devise a robust offsetting strategy to balance our irreducible emissions, focusing on managing our own green properties for improved carbon sequestration, maintaining the 'additionality' principle regarding accounting for offsetting projects

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Quantified our anticipated offsetting requirement by 2030 (46.2 tCO₂e/yr)
- Prioritised carbon sequestration amongst the Nature Recovery objectives for managing our 'green' properties
- Assessed all our 'green' properties for tree planting and peat restoration opportunities

- **Next steps:**

- By 2030 to identify and initiate tree planting, peat restoration and woodland management improvement

Actions:

- 1.1.4 A1 Engage with Natural Environment Programme Board to identify suitable sites for tree planting, peat restoration or other land-based carbon sequestration

Commented [TD1]: I advise this is Natural Environment Programme Board, to initiate a project brief for the pipeline and preparing the project. There may also be other projects that are or could deliver tree planting, peat restoration or other land-based carbon sequestration.

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| projects on our green estate sufficient to achieve or exceed our offsetting (insetting) target | 1.1.4 A2 | Obtain definitive understanding of how offsetting on our own property (insetting) can robustly counted against our emissions |
| ○ Obtain definitive understanding of how offsetting on our own property (insetting) can robustly counted against our emissions | 1.1.4 A3 | Prioritise sites for carbon sequestration projects and initiate |
| ○ Consider purchasing property or entering third-party arrangements for carbon sequestration schemes | 1.1.4 A4 | Investigate third-party options for carbon sequestration |

1.2 Adaptation

Ultimate goal:

- **Our buildings are resilient to the forecast impacts of climate change and continue to provide suitable working conditions for staff.**
- **Our land is physically resilient regarding rights of way and optimised to enable habitats to adapt, and we are adequately prepared for extreme weather events.**

Interim goal:

- **Acquire a good understanding of anticipated future climate trends and the potential impacts on our buildings and green properties.**

Objectives:

1.2.1 Understand vulnerability of individual buildings to extreme weather events and likely impact on working conditions

- | Next steps: | Actions: |
|--|---|
| ○ Undertake climate change risk assessment for buildings | 1.2.1 A1 Devise and undertake climate change risk assessment for buildings |
| ○ Make each building as resilient as possible to the key risks | 1.2.1 A2 Identify priority list of resilience improvements that need to be undertaken |

1.2.2 Understand vulnerability of green properties to long-range climate trends and extreme weather

Next steps:	Actions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Undertake climate change risk assessment for green properties	1.2.2 A1 Incorporate climate change risk assessment for green properties into PAMS review
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Incorporate resilience to key risks into management plans, including pro-active rare or keystone species mitigation	1.2.2 A2 Incorporate resilience to key risks into management plans, including pro-active rare or keystone species mitigation

Commented [TD2]: I have been working with other NP colleagues to create a template for this. The latest CCAR, climate risk assessment and climate projection data for Cumbria will be published in August 25 and available for this task. Please let me know if you'd like to follow these up.

1.2.3 Ensure we have appropriate business recovery strategies

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - Climate risk is included in our Risk Register under 'external factors impacting the Authority' and subject to periodic reviews of our Adaptation to Climate Change report

Please note: Some objectives under climate change relating to management of our land are already incorporated into our **Nature Recovery** programme.

Commented [TD3]: Do you mean that we need to create actions that make our green estate resilient to the key risks we identify, particularly for rare and keystone species?

Next steps:	Actions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Maintain scrutiny of Adaptation report	1.2.3 A1 Review climate risks within Risk Register

2 Land management

We own or manage around 8,500 ha of 'green' property, most of which is moorland and woodland. The way this is managed has an impact on carbon emissions or sequestration, biodiversity, and water management. Most of our green property also has significant stakeholders such as Commoners whose rights and use of the land must be fully considered. We have a responsibility to manage our property to maximise its climate, natural, social, and economic potential.

With our green properties, there is an opportunity not just to be sustainable but to aim for a higher level of regeneration in line with our first statutory purpose ('to conserve **and enhance** natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage').

These goals and objectives correspond closely with those under climate mitigation and adaptation, and also with those within our Nature Recovery programme.

Ultimate goal:

We manage our land to maximise its ecosystem, climate and social potential in appropriate balance

Objectives:

2.1 All of our green properties make a positive contribution to local biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - Management plans for a proportion of our green properties

Formation of Team Nature to coordinate nature recovery, carbon sequestration, natural capital and related objectives for our green estate

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Full natural capital assessment for our green estate○ Completion of management plans for our most significant green properties | Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 A1 Undertake Natural Capital Assessment for priority list of green properties2.1 A2 Complete management plans for most significant green properties |
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2.2 Our green estate is at least net zero and ideally climate-positive

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - High-level carbon flux assessment of our green estate, indicating net sequestration of 2,318 tCO₂e/yr

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More detailed carbon flux assessment for individual properties to inform mitigation measures for net-emitting properties and potential management improvements towards greater carbon sequestration | Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.2 A1 Investigate techniques for improving carbon flux measurements / commission measurement from third party |
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2.3 All designated sites (SSSIs, SACs, NNRs, LNRs) we own are in favourable condition where this is achievable²

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - 6.5% of SSSIs / NNRs in our ownership are in favourable condition, with 22.7 unfavourable but recovering.

Commented [MS4]: Need to clarify figure

Commented [MS5]: Need to clarify figure

² Some sites are not possible to bring to favourable condition, such as water-bodies affected by *Crassula helmsii*

- **Next steps:**

- Identify priority sites to bring toward favourable condition according to Business Plan

Actions:

- 2.3 A1 Identify priority sites to bring toward favourable condition according to Business Plan

2.4 Management decisions for our green estate take appropriate account of impacts on other stakeholders (such as Commoners), archaeology, heritage and World Heritage Site factors

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Consultations with Commoners regarding potential changes to management of Commons in our ownership
- WHS and Archaeology Officers are involved in Team Nature

- **Next steps:**

- Appropriate consultation with stakeholders as plans develop
- Explore how to incorporate sustainability more stringently into events using our properties

Actions:

- 2.4 A1 Review events permitting process to assess for greater sustainability protection
- 2.4 A2 Review potential for wider use of Heritage Impact Assessments

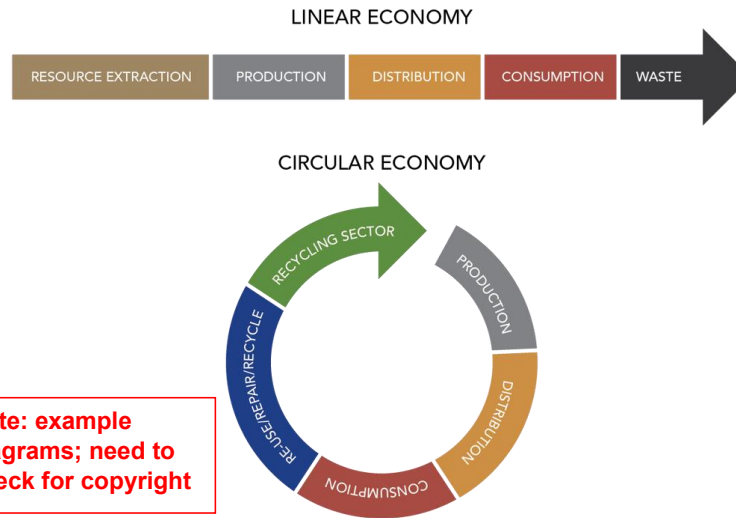
Commented [SR6]: Martin - we could explore the opportunity for Heritage Impact Assessments appropriate to the scale of change being proposed

3 Resource efficiency and waste

Traditionally, Western society operates according to a linear economy in which materials such as minerals are extracted from the earth, processed into products for use, and then discarded as waste. This is damaging to the earth at both ends of the supply chain and also has social impacts around extraction and pollution.

A more sustainable model is that of a 'circular economy' in which products are designed such that everything is re-useable or recyclable, minimising both consumption and waste.

The LDNPA consumes resources in the form of the goods we buy, either for our own operations or to sell on in our outlets, and we also create waste. The non-material services we procure can also have environmental and social impacts.



Ultimate goal:

- By 2050 we become a 'circular economy' organisation in which 'virgin' consumption is eliminated and none of our organisation's waste goes to landfill³

Interim goal:

By 2030 we have reduced our internal waste by 26% from a 2018-19 baseline

Objectives:

- 3.1 All environmental, social and financial impacts are considered in the sourcing of products, supplies and services, including:**
- choice of local vs. national / international suppliers
 - the potential for inadvertent involvement in modern-day slavery

Commented [MS7]: This is an extension of DEFRA's target of reduction of 15% by 2024-25

³ We gather litter across the National Park discarded by the general public and it is not possible for us to control this

3.2 Progressively reduce our consumption by incorporating the following principles into all of our procurement:

- (i) Questioning the need and quantity of any item being procured
- (ii) Actively selecting for durability, repairability, and recyclability, and for items made from recycled and/or reprocessed materials
- (iii) Phasing out purchase of single-use or short-term products, especially plastic
- (iv) Selecting for reduced packaging

• **What we've achieved so far:**

- These principles have been incorporated into our updated procurement process

• **Next steps:**

- Following training, all staff to be encouraged to apply sustainable procurement principles proportionally at all levels, from biros and disposable batteries up to new buildings and bridges
- Analyse procurement across the Authority to establish most impactful areas to reduce

Actions:

- 3.2 A1 Incorporate procurement awareness into sustainability training [6.1 A1]
- 3.2 A2 Prioritise areas of procurement for investigation of carbon impact [1.1.1(iv) A1]

3.3 Reduce the carbon impact of our procurement through:

- (i) Actively selecting for the lowest embodied-carbon products and those with lowest carbon emissions in use
- (ii) Improving our understanding of the carbon impacts of our many different lines of procurement, including large capital projects
- (iii) Where possible, moving from generalised to product-specific carbon factors

• **What we've achieved so far:**

- These principles have been incorporated into our updated procurement process

• **Next steps:**

- Instil carbon awareness in procurement across all staff involved in procurement
- Investigate more specialised carbon factors for different products / activities

Actions:

- 3.3(i) A1 Incorporate carbon impact of procurement into sustainability training [6.1 A1]
- 3.3(ii) A2 Consider researching lowest-carbon options for Authority catering for staff and external events / meetings

Commented [MS8]: NB Would need to consider local politics of this as would indicate mostly plant-based, not meat

- Incorporate specialised carbon factors into Scope 3 carbon accounting

3.3(ii) A3 Identify highest priority products / lines to research carbon factors for [1.1.1(iv) A1]

3.3(ii) A4 Research methods to improve carbon measurement for large capital / construction projects (including life-cycle analysis)

3.3(iii) A5 Investigate how to get more specialised procurement carbon factors into carbon accounting

3.4 Use local and Fairtrade products for all official Authority meetings and promote them in our outlets according to the principles of our Local+Fair commitment

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Introduced sustainability guidelines into our procurement system
- Local and Fairtrade refreshments are served in most official meetings

- **Next steps:**

- Training in sustainable procurement to be rolled out to all relevant staff
- More local and Fairtrade products to be stocked and promoted in our outlets
- Extend local and Fairtrade principles to larger-scale catering for staff and external events
- Consider introducing local and Fairtrade supply conditions into our franchise arrangements

Actions:

3.4 A1 Incorporate Lake District Local+Fair into sustainability training [6.1 A1]

3.4 A2 Include Local+Fair into Sustainability Board responsibilities

3.4 A3 Identify additional local and Fairtrade lines for outlets

3.4 A4 Analyse franchise agreements for opportunities to enhance local and Fairtrade obligations

3.5 Minimise our waste-to-landfill by:

- (i) Repairing, re-using, or re-purposing items where possible
- (ii) Recycling where repair, re-use or re-purposing isn't possible
- (iii) Ensuring we use waste disposal services that minimise waste to landfill
- (iii) Composting all organic waste where no organic waste disposal service is available

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Most of our sites have separation for recycling
- Three of our sites have composting facilities

- **Next steps:**

- Investigate local waste management companies and select for best re-use / recycling opportunities
- Improve ease of re-use and recycling at our facilities
- Consider internal 'Freegle'-type facility to maximise re-use rather than disposal of items
- Contract external organic waste disposal services where available and introduce local composting to cover other sites

Actions:

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| 3.5 A1 | Investigate waste disposal contracts and disposal routes for sustainability |
| 3.5 A2 | Undertake assessment of properties for recycling facilities |
| 3.5 A3 | Investigate means by which 'Freegle'-type system could be introduced |
| 3.5 A4 | Explore composting opportunities across all sites not covered by organic waste disposal services |

4 Water

The LDNPA also consumes water in its offices, operational sites and public toilets, and we produce wastewater from these sites. Despite being the wettest corner of England, water consumption still has an environmental impact through abstraction from the local natural water cycle, energy and chemicals that go into water treatment, and foul water and other chemicals that go down our drains.

Ultimate goals:

- Reduce our mains water consumption by 35% by 2050
- Eliminate all non-biodegradable and polluting chemicals from our wastewater stream

Interim goal:

- Reduce our mains water consumption by 14% by 2030

Objectives:

4.1 Improve measurement of all mains water consumption

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Most of our water consumption is metered but monitoring is not consistent, and we don't know the location of a couple of meters

Commented [MS9]: Based on extension of DEFRA target

Commented [MS10]: Based on extension of DEFRA target

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Get smart water meters installed at all remote locations and bring monitoring up to quarterly for all sources | Actions:
4.1 A1 Get smart water meters installed at key locations |
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4.2 Reduce consumption of mains water through:

- (i) Using water-efficient equipment such as dual-flush toilets and waterless urinals wherever possible
- (ii) Exploring the use of grey water systems wherever possible
- (iii) Encouraging water saving amongst staff and users of our public facilities

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - Water-efficient equipment is in use at most of our sites but not all
 - Some sites have information encouraging water efficiency

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Install water-efficient equipment where possible○ Explore the use of grey water systems and/or composting toilets for new and existing sites / facilities○ Raise awareness of water efficiency with staff○ Work with Education Team to produce educational 'nudge' material for public toilets | Actions:
4.2 A1 Revisit site sustainability surveys to identify opportunities to upgrade water facilities to more efficient ones e.g. dual-flush toilets

4.2 A2 Explore the use of grey water systems and/or composting toilets for new and existing sites / facilities

4.2 A3 Incorporate water efficiency into sustainability training [6.1 A1]

4.2 A4 Work with Education Team to produce educational 'nudge' material for public toilets |
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4.3 Eliminate use of non-biodegradable or otherwise toxic chemicals

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - Biodegradable and phosphorus-free cleaning chemicals are used at many of our sites (but not all)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Audit all cleaning chemicals to ensure maximum environmental friendliness | Actions:
4.3 A1 Survey sites to audit cleaning and other chemicals for sustainability and consider alternatives |
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- Audit chemicals used for operational purposes to ascertain levels of usage and whether less toxic alternatives are available
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5 Processes and decision-making

As outlined in the introduction, unsustainability can be baked into established patterns of thinking and behaviour. Despite being a National Park Authority, we may be as prone to these blind-spots as any other organisation, such that we may inadvertently do more harm than good. We therefore need to build sustainability checks into all of our processes, decision-making, and governance.

Ultimate goal:

- Sustainability is given robust consideration in all decision-making (such as financial planning) and processes (such as project management and procurement), and appropriate governance is in place to scrutinise this

Objectives:

5.1 Ensure that Members and senior officers are sustainability-literate

5.2 Create a Sustainability Team drawing representation from all Service areas to refine strategy and pilot ongoing sustainability improvements

5.3 Incorporate some form of Sustainability Impact Assessment into the processes of:

- (i) key strategic and policy decision-making in Authority meetings
- (ii) financial planning
- (iii) procurement
- (iv) project management

5.4 Devise a process to balance and justify trade-offs where different aspects of sustainability (including the Authority's financial sustainability) are in conflict

5.5 Incorporate sustainability into our systems of scrutiny to ensure principles are being applied

- **What we've achieved so far:**
 - We already have a Net Zero Programme Board which deals with some aspects of sustainability
 - Introduced sustainability guidelines into our procurement system

Some Members and senior officers have undertaken carbon literacy training

• **Next steps:**

- Evolve the Net Zero Programme Board into a wider Sustainability Team
- Investigate different forms of Sustainability Impact Assessment tool and how they might be applied proportionately to different aspects of Authority decision-making and processes
- Provide sustainability literacy training for Members and senior officers

Actions:

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| 5.1 A1 | Devise appropriate Sustainability Literacy training for Members and senior officers |
| 5.2 A1 | Discuss and agree how to expand Net Zero Programme Board into wider Sustainability Board |
| 5.3 A1 | Investigate models and usage of SIAs [1.1.2 A2] |

5.6 Create mechanisms through which staff can contribute ideas

Actions:

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| 5.6 A1 | Devise appropriate internal mechanism for staff to contribute to ongoing sustainability improvements |
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6 Influence

The Lake District has global recognition, around 18 million visitors per year, many businesses and around 45,000 residents – and of course our own staff, Members, and volunteers. Our organisational vision is to be 'inspirational', and we have a tremendous opportunity to influence residents, visitors, partners, our supply chain, and many other groups.

Ultimate goal:

- The Lake District National Park Authority has a well-deserved reputation as a sustainable organisation and maximises its influence to inspire more sustainable behaviour in everyone with whom it interacts

Objectives:

- 6.1 Ensure that sustainability principles are fully integrated into all aspects of Authority practice**
- 6.2 Acquire third-party verification of our sustainability credentials**
- 6.3 Make our sustainability strategy, principles and verification public for influence and scrutiny**
- 6.4 Develop mechanisms to use our influence to promote more sustainable practice in all areas of Authority activity, such as:
- visitor and resident engagement and education**

- policy areas such as planning and transport
- supply chain
- interactions with partners
- land management

6.5 Use our influence and connections to resonate with external initiatives such as Earth Day, Great Big Green Week and Fairtrade Fortnight

- **What we've achieved so far:**

- Our Education Team works with thousands of pupils every year promoting sustainability along with other National Park values
- Sustainability is promoted in many of our partnership schemes such as Farming in Protected Landscapes and Nutrient Neutrality
- Introduced sustainability guidelines into our procurement system
- We provide information on our climate-related actions and publish our annual carbon accounts on our website

- **Next steps:**

- Finalise Sustainability Strategy and publish on website, and commit to ongoing review and development of Sustainability Strategy
- Find and engage with a suitable third-party body to undertake verification of our sustainability credentials
- Explore potential within the planning framework to bolster sustainability requirements
- Explore potential to promote sustainability principles more in our Information Centres, public toilets, car parks, and other outlets (such as improving and highlighting litter recycling)
- Explore mechanisms to exert influence up our supply chains to encourage more sustainable products and services
- Refine sustainable land-management practices and use as exemplars for other land managers
- Work with organisations such as Keep Britain Tidy to discourage leaving of waste by the public in the National Park

Actions:

- 6.1 A1 Sustainability training for all staff
- 6.2 A1 Contract a suitable third-party scheme to scrutinise and verify our net-zero and sustainability progress [1.1.4 A4]
- 6.3 A1 Finalise and publish Sustainability Strategy
- 6.4 A1 Explore opportunities within Development Management protocols to promote sustainability in Planning
- 6.5 A1 Follow up on staff Sustainability Training with exploring how each team can use its influence externally
- 6.6 A1 Consolidate calendar of 'green' events and explore initiatives to highlight
- 6.6 A2 Convene working group to develop Bike to Work Day / Car Free Week promotion and activities, and explore extending outwards from staff to within the National Park
- 6.6 A3 Re-kindle Fairtrade Fortnight promotional activities

Commented [MS11]: This is a bit 'meta' as, if this Strategy is approved and published, this step will already have been achieved!

7 Monitoring and reporting

One of our guiding principles is transparency, and there is increasing public awareness of the concept of 'greenwashing'. In order to make any credible claims around being a 'sustainable organisation' we need to have:

1. A robust definition of what this means
2. Appropriate means of measuring and monitoring relevant factors
3. Appropriate independent verification of our compliance
4. Appropriate analysis of any shortfall and a credible plan for addressing this
5. An open and clear reporting framework that enables interested parties to scrutinise our claims
6. Accreditation by a third party that we meet at least one external designated standard of sustainability

Ultimate goals:

- We measure and monitor all relevant factors and are fully transparent about definitions, achievements, and shortfalls.
- We are constantly seeking to improve upon areas of poor performance and looking for new areas of improvement.
- We have a 'badge' to demonstrate that our sustainability credentials have been verified externally.

Objectives:

- 7.1 **Put in place robust and reliable mechanisms for measuring and monitoring all relevant factors (such as carbon emissions (including from Scope 3 sources such as procurement and commuting), waste streams and project impacts)**
- 7.2 **Institute a public reporting framework on our website including our definition of a 'sustainable organisation', achievements, shortfalls and a high-level action plan**
- 7.3 **Use results of monitoring to guide a more detailed internal action plan to address areas of shortfall**
- 7.4 **Achieve relevant external accreditation**
 - **What we've achieved so far:**
 - Since 2007 we have monitored our greenhouse gas emissions from Scope 1 and 2 and some of Scope 3 and reported our progress in reducing our emissions
 - Adopted 'Service carbon budgets' to encourage individual teams to take ownership of and action on their contributions to emissions
 - Since 2020 we have reported these and other sustainability factors into DEFRA's departmental monitoring and reporting system

- We have used analysis of our greenhouse gas emissions figures to govern our carbon reduction strategy, improving energy efficiency of our buildings and business transport

- **Next steps:**

- Improve our carbon accounting to incorporate additional Scope 3 emissions such as procurement, project emissions, waste stream, outsourced ICT services such as the Cloud and AI, staff commuting, and home working
- Contract a suitable third-party scheme to scrutinise and verify our net-zero and sustainability progress
- Work more closely with individual Services and teams to develop a comprehensive sustainability action plan
- Develop a format to publicly report our progress
- Decide on a relevant accreditation scheme and find an external organisation to audit our sustainability credentials

Actions:

- 7.1 A1 Consolidate tweaks to carbon database and complete upgrades to incorporate new Scope 3 measurements
- 7.1 A2 Investigate system to incorporate procurement data into Scope 3 carbon measurements
- 7.1 A3 Investigate alternative external systems to handle utility and other carbon-related data

Action summary

Action ref	Action	Who	By when
1.1.1(i) A1	Replace gas heating with low-carbon heating in Moot Hall (if retained)	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2026
1.1.1(i) A2	Replace gas heating with low-carbon heating in Coniston Info Centre (if retained)	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/09/2026
1.1.1(i) A3	Investigate remaining sites for where solar PV will make a difference (carbon or financially)	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2026
1.1.1(i) A4	Investigate remaining sites for where energy-efficiency improvements will make a significant difference	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2026
1.1.1(ii) A1	Annual cost benefit assessment on low-emission alternative for diesel 4x4s	HEAD OF RESOURCES/FLEET ADVISOR	31/3/2026
1.1.1(ii) A2	Refine travel hierarchy and integrate with fleet strategy and travel policies	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2027
1.1.1(ii) A3	Incorporate travel efficiency into staff sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
1.1.1(ii) A4	Investigate further opportunities to change policies or system; Sustainability Advisor to encourage mileage reduction for Members and Volunteers	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2027
1.1.1(ii) A5	Investigate staff commuting and home-working behaviour to highlight opportunities for mileage and carbon reduction	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2027
1.1.1(iii) A1	Annual cost/benefit assessment on low-emission alternative for quad bikes	HEAD OF RANGERS	31/3/2027
1.1.1(iii) A2	Annual cost benefit assessment on low-emission alternatives for fossil-fuel-powered equipment	HEAD OF RANGERS	31/3/2027
1.1.1(iv) A1	Prioritise areas of procurement for investigation of carbon impact	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
1.1.1(iv) A2	Work with relevant team/Sustainability Advisor to see where impact can be reduced and/or supply chains can be influenced to be more sustainable	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2028
1.1.2 A1	Incorporate SIA into sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
1.1.2 A2	Investigate and agree model and usage of Sustainability Impact Assessments	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/SLT	31/3/2027
1.1.3 A1	Incorporate awareness of flexibility of location into sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
1.1.3 A2	Review role location policy and whether greater flexibility could reduce overall mileage	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027

Action ref	Action	Who	By when
1.1.4 A1	Engage with NEPB to identify suitable sites for tree planting, peat restoration or other land-based carbon sequestration	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/NEPB	31/3/2026
1.1.4 A2	Obtain definitive understanding of how offsetting on our own property (insetting) can robustly counted against our emissions	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
1.1.4 A3	Prioritise sites for carbon sequestration projects and initiate	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
1.1.4 A4	Investigate third-party options for carbon sequestration	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
1.2.1 A1	Devise and undertake climate change risk assessment for buildings	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/BUILDINGS MANAGER	31/3/2027
1.2.1 A2	Identify priority list of resilience improvements on buildings that need to be undertaken	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/BUILDINGS MANAGER	31/3/2028
1.2.2 A1	Incorporate climate change risk assessment for green properties into PAMS review	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PROPERTY ASSET MANAGER	31/3/2026
1.2.2 A2	Incorporate resilience to key risks into management plans, including pro-active rare or keystone species mitigation	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/TEAM LEADER STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT	31/3/2027
1.2.3 A1	Review climate risks within Risk Register	HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2026
2.1 A1	Undertake Natural Capital Assessment for priority list of green properties	PROPERTY ASSET MANAGER	31/3/2026
2.1 A2	Complete management plans for most significant green properties	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/TEAM LEADER STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT	31/3/2027
2.2 A1	Investigate techniques for improving carbon flux measurements / commission measurement from third party	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/TEAM LEADER STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT	31/3/2027
2.3 A1	Identify priority sites to bring toward favourable condition according to Business Plan	TEAM LEADER STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT	31/3/2026
2.4 A1	Review events permitting process to assess for greater sustainability protection [SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Property]	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/SURVEYOR	31/3/2027
2.4 A2	Review potential for wider use of Heritage Impact Assessments	HEAD OF STRATEGY	31/3/2027
3.2 A1	Incorporate procurement awareness into sustainability training [SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/People]	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
3.2 A2	Prioritise areas of procurement for investigation of carbon impact	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
3.3(i) A1	Incorporate carbon impact of procurement into sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
3.3(ii) A2	Consider researching lowest-carbon options for Authority catering for staff and external events / meetings	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027

Action ref	Action	Who	By when
3.3(ii) A3	Identify highest priority products / lines to research carbon factors for	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
3.3(ii) A4	Research methods to improve carbon measurement for large capital / construction projects (including life-cycle analysis)	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	31/3/2027
3.3(iii) A5	Investigate how to get more specialised procurement carbon factors into carbon accounting	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
3.4 A1	Incorporate Lake District Local+Fair into sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
3.4 A2	Include Local+Fair into Sustainability Board responsibilities	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
3.4 A3	Identify additional local and Fairtrade lines for outlets [Comms/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR]	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR / Comms	31/3/2027
3.4 A4	Analyse franchise agreements for opportunities to enhance local and Fairtrade obligations	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES/AUTHORITY SOLICITOR	31/3/2027
3.5 A1	Investigate waste disposal contracts and disposal routes for sustainability	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
3.5 A2	Undertake assessment of properties for recycling facilities	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
3.5 A3	Investigate means by which 'Freegle'-type system could be introduced	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
3.5 A4	Explore composting opportunities across all sites not covered by organic waste disposal services	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
4.1 A1	Get smart water meters installed at key locations	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
4.2 A1	Revisit site sustainability surveys to identify opportunities to upgrade water facilities to more efficient ones e.g. dual-flush toilets	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
4.2 A2	Explore the use of grey water systems and/or composting toilets for new and existing sites / facilities	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
4.2 A3	Incorporate water efficiency into sustainability training	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
4.2 A4	Work with Education Team to produce educational 'nudge' material for public toilets	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/EDUCATION TEAM	31/3/2027
4.3 A1	Survey sites to audit cleaning and other chemicals for sustainability and consider alternatives	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Site managers	31/3/2027
5.1 A1	Devise appropriate Sustainability Literacy training for Members and senior officers	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
5.2 A1	Discuss and agree how to expand Net Zero Programme Board into wider Sustainability Board	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/HEAD OF RESOURCES	
5.3 A1	Investigate models and usage of SIAs (=1.1.2 A2)	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/SLT	31/3/2027
5.6 A1	Devise appropriate internal mechanism for staff to contribute to ongoing sustainability improvements	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Comms	31/3/2027

Action ref	Action	Who	By when
6.1 A1	Sustainability training for all staff	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/PEOPLE TEAM	31/3/2027
6.2 A1	Contract a suitable third-party scheme to scrutinise and verify our net-zero and sustainability progress	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027
6.3 A1	Finalise and publish Sustainability Strategy	HEAD OF RESOURCES/SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Comms	30/9/2025
6.4 A1	Explore opportunities within Development Management protocols to promote sustainability in Planning	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/AS	31/3/2027
6.5 A1	Follow up on staff Sustainability Training with exploring how each team can use its influence externally	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/ALL	31/3/2027
6.6 A1	Consolidate calendar of 'green' events and explore initiatives to highlight	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Comms	31/3/2027
6.6 A2	Convene working group to develop Bike to Work Day / Car Free Week promotion and activities, and explore extending outwards from staff to within the National Park	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Comms	31/3/2027
6.6 A3	Re-kindle Fairtrade Fortnight promotional activities	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/Comms	31/3/2027
7.1 A1	Consolidate tweaks to carbon database and complete upgrades to incorporate new Scope 3 measurements	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/ICT	31/3/2027
7.1 A2	Investigate system to incorporate procurement data into Scope 3 carbon measurements	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR/ICT/HEAD OF RESOURCES	31/3/2027
7.1 A3	Investigate alternative external systems to handle utility and other carbon-related data	SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR	31/3/2027