

Rutland County Council

Alternative Fuels Plan - 2023 - 2030

FOREWORD

The world is facing an existential threat from climate change and immediate action is required to minimise its impact. In 2021 Rutland County Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need to act quickly to help reduce carbon emissions locally.

Transport is the biggest single source of carbon emissions in the country, significantly contributing to climate change and impacting on the quality of the air we breathe and our health. New legislation introduced in 2019 has banned the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 as part of the country's target to be net carbon zero by 2050.

This plan is focused on what Rutland County Council can do to help lower vehicle emissions within the County. It is based on what we can realistically do within our means and is focused on making best use of the opportunities that are available to us and supporting residents to inform their decisions on adopting carbon neutral means of transport.

A key part of this is about working alongside our community. Whilst the challenges of climate change are significant and complex we can make a difference by changing the way we live our everyday lives. Together we can help ensure Rutland is a County where green travel is made easier.

Introduction

The [Future Rutland Vision](#) describes the type of County our residents said they would like to live in now and in the future which includes the following priority:

Rutland will strive to become a carbon neutral county by 2050 – a place where environmental sustainability and responsibility complement rural living.

Rutland County Council has an important role in helping to achieve this and the Council has a key role to play as both an enabler and by becoming a carbon neutral Council, which is a key focus within our [corporate strategy](#).

Central Government set out the UK 2050 Net Zero Strategy in October 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy> and has subsequently published its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-strategy>

Electric vehicles (EVs) have the potential to offer great benefits to residents, businesses and visitors in terms of health, the environment and reduced running costs over the lifetime of the vehicle. Electric vehicles are part of the tool kit for decarbonising transport emissions and are an important component of improving local air quality and reducing premature deaths and health risks associated with exposure to toxic air.

Awareness of the infrastructure that will need to be introduced by a range of stakeholders including local authorities and the private sector is key, whilst creating a forward plan to ensure the Council plays a strong enabling role. Residents and the Council alike need to be forward thinking and resilient to the way our transport systems will have to change, however this is the alternative to what will be a very different world if we continue to depend on fossil fuels.

Rutland County Council (RCC) will incorporate EV uptake and infrastructure into the wider remit of supporting and promoting greener travel alongside:

- [Public transport](#)
- [Cycling \(including E-bikes\)](#)
- [Walking](#)

Need to change

- Over the last 10 years the population in Rutland has increased by 9.7% and is projected to increase by 13% over the next 10 years.
- Although the Council has a focus on the promotion of sustainable transport, the rural nature of the County, means private vehicle use will continue to be the main mode of transport and will count for a significant proportion of travel on county roads.
- Ultimately these factors mean the County will have more vehicles and, subsequently, a greater carbon footprint.
- Currently Rutland has 22 public charging points and is forecast to require 187 by 2030. Therefore more infrastructure is required to support any increase in sustainable transport in the County.

Our focus:

Although this plan has a focus on electric vehicles it does not ignore the broader range of low emission vehicle options which are being developed e.g. hydrogen. These options of transport are not yet sufficiently advanced for the Council to consider as a key role in carbon emissions in the County. Whilst electric vehicle use has increased it remains an emerging technology and therefore we will review the relevance of this strategy and its objectives in line with relevant technological advances and government guidance.

Our Aims

- To reduce carbon admissions in the County by promoting uptake in cleaner, greener and sustainable methods of transport.
- Encourage development of capacity within the commercial sector.
- To utilise any grant funding to further enable commercial charge point operators to expand the Electric charge point offer in the county
- To promote public grants/initiatives locally
- To collaborate with other Local Authorities and adopt a cross-boundary approach to improvements to EV infrastructure
- To engage with organisations such as Midlands Connect and the Energy Savings Trust to increase support and expertise for greener transport initiatives for Rutland

Our Priorities

1. To encourage greater use of EVs and sustainable transport in Rutland through a programme of focused communications.

How we aim to do this:

- To promote any assistance available to support sustainable transport, including Government grants.
- To improve understanding by promoting the benefits of EVs and sustainable transport opportunities.
- To promote the options which are available in the County to increase confidence in EV ownership e.g. promotion of EVCPs, workplace charging schemes, Zap home and work schemes etc.
- Clear FAQ around EVs developed e.g. How EVs can be charged
- Engaging our parish Councils on EV

2. To increase infrastructure to accommodate EVs in the County by facilitating a network of carbon neutral EVCPs across the County.

How we aim to do this:

- To explore various funding opportunities to help expand the availability of on and off street EVCPs on Council controlled land including cultural destinations, maintained public highway and public car parks.
- To implement the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project to deliver 30 additional charging points in the County.
- Through planning work with developers to consider the charging infrastructure needs of new sites ensuring guidance reflects and considers adequate EVCP.
- Engage local businesses to promote various opportunities to expand EVCP availability, including supporting the identification of suitable locations.
- Work in partnership with parish councils to introduce charging points, where appropriate, on community land.
- To engage with key tourist destinations in the county to explore opportunities to expand EVCPs.

3. To review Council assets and vehicle fleet and contracts and increase % of EV vehicles available.

How we aim to do this:

- To review the Council vehicle fleet and establish potential for increasing current EV levels, based on sound cost benefit analysis.
- Levelling up bid – Look to electrify our town bus fleets.
- Transport contracts: vehicle usage – encouraging EVCP, Ev – consideration within tendering process where providers sustainable transport weighting.
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Resource

Adopting an approach which reflects our financial means. This means decisions will be made within our financial priority to live within our means and achieving a balanced budget.

Our focus will be on accessing relevant government grant funding and working in partnership to increase our opportunities to access wider funding that we may not be able to access in isolation.

Grants are available for EV infrastructure schemes. The main 2 sources for local authorities being:

ORCS - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints/grants-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints-for-plug-in-electric-vehicles-guidance-for-local-authorities>

LEVI - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-local-ev-infrastructure-levi-funding>

Rutland County Council (RCC) is part of the “First Midlands EV Infrastructure Consortium” working with 4 other local authorities and Midlands Connect on a pilot project to increase EV infrastructure across the 5 areas utilising LEVI pilot funding following a successful bid in 2022.

RCC will also claim both capital and capability LEVI funding in 2023/24 for further work on EV infrastructure in the county and will work in partnership with other local authorities to adopt a cross-boundary approach wherever possible.

Plans to invest in EV minibuses and workplace charge points using Levelling up Fund monies are well under way.

RCC are fully committed to bidding for future EV funding to maximize support of additional EV infrastructure in the county.