

Climate Change

Service Manager: Roxanne King

Ms H Jewell
Climate Emergency UK

My Ref: 8221, 8222, 8223, 8224, 8225, 8226
Your Ref:

Date: 13 February 2023

Sent by email: request-938318-61a0f948@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Jewell

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – COUNCIL ELECTRICITY TARIFFS AND RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION FOI 8221; COUNCIL HOUSE EPC RATINGS & MEES FOI 8222; COUNCIL STAFF WORKING ON CLIMATE ACTION FOI 8223; HIGH CARBON INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING FOI 8224; CARBON LITERACY TRAINING FOR SENIOR COUNCILLORS AND STAFF FOI 8225; LOBBYING FOR CLIMATE ACTION & FUNDING FOI 8226

Thank you for your requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received by the Council 16 January 2023.

Your requests are stated below, with answers provided under each question.

FOI 8221

Council electricity tariffs and renewable electricity generation FOI 8221

Does the council have a 100% renewable green electricity tariff for all of the electricity that the council is directly responsible for, and is this tariff with Green Energy UK plc, Good Energy Limited or Ecotricity?

This includes all electricity that the council is directly responsible for, in council offices and any other buildings leased and managed by the council where the council pays the electricity tariff. This does not include homes owned or managed by the council. If unsure, please state your provider and tariff.

NFDC has purchased renewable energy as part of the LASER Electricity Supply contract with Npower.

Does the council generate and use energy from waste? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by these energy from waste electricity sources?

Energy from waste is generated locally, but NFDC is not responsible for waste treatment and therefore does not benefit directly from energy from waste from household or business waste collections.

Does the council buy directly from a local renewable electricity source or have its own renewable electricity sources? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by this/these renewable electricity sources?

This includes council owned renewable electricity sources that are located outside of the council area, such as solar farms located further south to maximise electricity generation.

Solar PV systems on NFDC corporate buildings are estimated to produce approximately 4.45% of the total NFDC electricity requirements. Renewable energy generation on leased out buildings (including leisure centres and council housing) is not included in this figure as it supports the tenants and does not contribute towards NFDC corporate energy requirements.

FOI 8222

Council house EPC ratings & MEES FOI 8222

What is the energy efficiency of the council's homes (managed or owned by the council)? Please provide either a distribution table with the number of buildings for each EPC rating or the percentage of the council's homes that have received an EPC rating of C or above.

1,709 dwellings (33% of our total 5,175 stock) have an EPC rating 'C' or above.

What is the number of investigations, enforcement notices and enforcement actions that the council did, related to MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards) in the 2021/22 financial year.

Where data is available separately for each statistic please provide separately. If only some information is available, please give me that information.

We have not carried out an enforcement under MEES. We check the EPC on all properties we investigate but have not had to take any action.

Additional information relating to climate and housing:

- The NFDC Greener Housing Strategy Sets its target of achieving EPC Band C for 2030 which includes Commissioning Resolution Energy to evaluate existing stock condition data and model the costs of retrofit programmes to meet Government targets by 2030 and 2050 respectively.***
- NFDC has signed up to participate in the Retrofit Hub Steering Group run by Hampshire Council with the Retrofit Academy. This group aims to address the skills shortage in the Retrofit sector. This initiative will respond to national targets and will directly support Hampshire's Climate Change priority. First meeting is 28th February.***
- The Greener Housing Deliver Manager is the dedicated lead and manage the Council's approach to net zero in Housing Services.***
- NFDC is part of the Warmer Homes Consortium offering HUG and LAD funding to eligible customers in the district. NFDC is part of HHC 'Hitting the Cold Spots' run by the Environment Centre.***
- NFDC being led by Hampshire County Council on solar together.***

FOI 8223

Council staff working on climate action FOI 8223

How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

781 employees are directly employed by NFDC.

How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below, both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted. This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar. This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

Climate Change Manager 1 FTE

Greener Housing Manager 1 FTE

Ecologist 1 FTE

Planner 1 FTE

Coastal Management Team 4.6 FTE

Energy & Environment Officer 0.6 FTE

NFDC aims to embed climate change, nature and sustainability considerations into all policies, processes and services so that responding to the emergency is not the responsibility of specific members of staff, but everyone.

Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

The Greener Housing Manager (1 FTE) is responsible for proactively leading the development of large scale low carbon / net zero building retrofit projects across the Councils Housing Stock and private sector housing.

How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

1 FTE

FOI 8224

High carbon infrastructure planning FOI 8224

Has the Council approved any new*1 or expanded*2 roads or road junctions in its area from 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.

*1 The intention of this question is to understand overall increases in road capacity, rather than recent housing developments. Please exclude minor roads built exclusively to connect new housing to the pre-existing road network.

*2 An expanded road or road junction is one that has increased capacity for motor vehicle traffic, not counting bus lanes, cycle infrastructure, or pedestrian infrastructure. Please include roads and junctions where new lanes have been added.

The Council have not approved any new or expanded roads or road junctions in its area during the specified period.

Has the council approved any new or expanded airport runways, terminals, measures to increase passenger numbers or other planning proposals that expand airport capacity in its area since 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.

The Council have not approved any new or expanded airport runways, terminals, measures to increase passenger numbers or other planning proposals that expand airport capacity in its area during this period.

FOI 8225

Carbon literacy training for senior councillors and staff FOI 8225

Have all senior management received carbon literacy training or equivalent since 1st January 2019? Please state the type of training.

The council's Climate Change Manager has completed Carbon Literacy training along with several members of staff across the organisation. This training has been used to promote and support the climate change agenda with Senior Management. Continued training will feature in the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028.

Have all current councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received carbon literacy training or equivalent since being elected? Please state the type of training.

This training could be from the Carbon Literacy Organisation or another organisation, university or in-house. We want to know the number of people who have attended the training. We don't need to know the number of staff that have received a certificate of completion or attendance.

The council's Climate Change Manager has completed Carbon Literacy training along with several members of staff across the organisation. This training has been used to promote and support the climate change agenda with Councillors. Continued training will feature in the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028. Following the local elections in May 2023, training will be given to Councillors and will likely follow the structure of the LGA's publication ['A Councillor's Workbook on Acting on Climate Change'](#).

FOI 8226

Lobbying for climate action & funding FOI 8226

Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.

This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.

This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.

Meetings and correspondence have taken place between NFDC, local partners and National Government around projects that support the declared Climate Change and Nature Emergency, for example low carbon energy and transport infrastructure. An example can be seen in the [minutes of Agenda Item 69 of NFDC Cabinet Meeting 1st February 2023](#) (extract below).

'The Council's appointed representative on the Freeport Board responded to the points raised. He reported that the Freeport was proposed to be the greenest Freeport and would be aiming for net zero, both in terms of carbon and nature. The Freeport would help to grow the economy of the New Forest in a sustainable way. The largest oil refinery in the UK was also located in the District which was a significant factor in the high level of industrial emissions. However, it was suggested that in the future hydrogen might be produced by Exxon rather than oil.'

New Forest District Council (NFDC) is committed to working with National Government and local partners to respond effectively to the emergency and safeguard the council and the district's residents, businesses and visitors.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you may wish to request an internal review. Requests for internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this email, and will be responded to within 40 working days of the request being received. Please put any request for a review in writing to the Information Governance and Complaints Manager, at:

New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
Beaulieu Road
LYNDHURST
SO43 7PA
foi@nfdc.gov.uk

If the decision is upheld to refuse disclosure, or your complaint is not resolved to your complete satisfaction, having exhausted the internal appeal procedure, you have a right under section 50 of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for review at:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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