

# TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

This toolkit is a self-assessment to help officers think about how their policies, projects, procurements, commissioning and services can align with Three Rivers' Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy. It also supports report authors to draft the environmental implications section on decision reports, and procurement strategy reports.

## How to use the tool

The self-assessment is intended to help officers reflect critically on their project or service's environmental impact. . It is a reflective tool, not a framework for approving or rejecting a decision, so it will work best if each question is considered honestly and carefully.

We envision this tool will be used early in the design of a project/policy/procurement to identify areas where environmental harms can be mitigated, and environmental benefits enhanced. If you would like advice, please discuss with your Head of Service, and contact the Climate and Sustainability Team if necessary. Once you are happy that your proposal is optimised, then complete this form, and copy the results in each section in to your decision report (committee/synopsis report) where applicable.

The next tab presents a set of questions about the proposal on a range of sustainability criteria. Each answer is colour-coded to indicate its environmental impact as below:



Colour code	Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow (2)	Some negative impacts sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Once you've selected your answer in the "Impact" column (C), then give the relevant score in the "Score" column (E). Higher scores indicate more sustainable proposals.

These questions should be considered for services, goods and projects we procure as well as those we deliver directly. Delivery models, specifications and tender evaluation should be shaped to ensure our contractors are aligned with our sustainability and net-zero commitments.

Against each area, the assessment presents prompts to highlight best practice suggestions and enable consideration of how negative impacts could be lessened on a project.

*This assessment was inspired by Jim Cunningham at Hammersmith and Fulham Council and developed by officers of Three Rivers Distrcit Council.*

Version                      Date

TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assesment

Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
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Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

**Guidance for use**  
Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to  
Joanna.Hewitson@threeivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date		
Brief description (1-2 sentences):		

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy

Question	Impact (select from list)	Score 1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? (e.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
5 Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
7 Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
8 Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Average Score		2.00			3.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Travel

Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
9 Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
10 Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
11 Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Opportunites for walking on site and as a though route. This will be enhanced by keeping paths clear of foliage and any path improvements	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
12 Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
13 Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Average Score		2.50			3.50

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries



Goods and Consumption						
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
14	Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Where there may be a need for tree felling, or the creation of habitats, dead wood will be left on site.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
15	Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? <i>E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
16	Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
17	Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Interpretation around the site will show the benefits of nature and biodiversity.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
18	Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
19	Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
20	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Average Score			3.00			4.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

Ecology						
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland,	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The management plan look at how the open space is utilised	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	There are a number of actions in the management plan to support the creation of or improvement of habitat for nature	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
23	Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The management plan looks at how habitats are protected and how new ones can be developed / introduced	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
24	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Interpretation on site will explain the benefits	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score			4			4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon: (Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)

- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Adaptation						
Question		Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
25	Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Mitigating the use of water by planting at the right time, planting the right species and use of hydration bags where necessary	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
26	Does anythe project , consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted, consider sustainable drainage solutions and any areas of long grass will include a fire break	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs</i>	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3		Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
28	Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted, consider sustainable drainage solutions and any areas of long grass will include a fire break.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score			3.5			3.50

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
- Re-use grey water in new developments
- Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets
- Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading
- Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
- Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS).
- Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Engagement and Influence						
Question		Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
30	Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.		Potential for increased partnership working, environmental focused educational events and messaging	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	
			3			4
			3			
			3.00			3.7
Average Score						
Total Overall Average Score						

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate emergency.

Now assesment is compelete copy and paste box into your business case, committee report. (under environmental implications 6).Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenders are expected to submit complete report with application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.00
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4

Total Overall Average Score	3.7
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List 1

Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.
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List 2

4  
3  
2  
-1  
0  
  
0  
4  
3  
2  
-1

No  
To some extent  
N/A  
  
Yes

List 3

No  
N/A  
  
Yes

Ok -	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
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