

Regulatory services and net zero: mapping local levers

This table seeks to map the levers which local regulatory services have at their disposal to help deliver councils net zero ambitions. It is split into four broad categories of activity, which are then broken down into individual touchpoints identifying specific work areas and actions that can influence the journey to net zero. Councils can download this document and add any local initiatives to the table.

How services work: reducing regulatory services' carbon footprint				
Levers	Progress levels			
	Basic	Early progress	Substantial progress	Mature
Carbon literacy training for all regulatory services staff				
Electrify the council's own fleet of vehicles				
Use of calculation tools to measure carbon footprint of services				
Enforcement of environmentally focused legislation				
Levers	Progress levels			
	Basic	Early progress	Substantial progress	Mature
Industrial permitting legislation				
Environmental health team support for air quality plans				
EPC / Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards: PRS				
EPC / Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards: non-domestic properties				
Trading Standards enforcement of Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations				
Enforcement of legislation on domestic wood fuel sales				
Local smoke free area enforcement				
Enforcing ban on single use plastic bags				
Enforcing ban on microbeads in cosmetics				
Enforcing ban on plastic straws, cotton buds, stirrers, etc				
Enforcing ban on single use plastics, such as cutlery				

Influencing behaviours				
Levers	Progress levels			
	Basic	Early progress	Substantial progress	Mature
Use the council's taxi/private hire vehicle licensing policy to mandate emissions standards of vehicles to remove vehicles with poor emissions ratings from the road. Councils may find the Energy Saving Trust's guidance on this issue useful.				
Incentivise drivers to switch to lower emissions or electric taxi/private hire vehicles, for example by reducing licence or renewal fees, exempting such vehicles from clean air zone fees or simplifying the inspection regime.				
Consider the scope for mandating environmentally friendly requirements in other policies, such as street trading and requiring the use of recyclable paper bags, for example.				
Use licensing policies to influence businesses, festivals or events and encourage environmentally friendly practices, such as using recyclable or reusable plates and glasses, making provision for public transport options or limiting private parking. Case study: Liverpool committed to Paris agreement for major live events				
Issuing grants to taxi/private hire vehicle drivers swap to cleaner vehicles, subject to resourcing.				
Targeted publicity and business advice to support landlords and businesses with their requirements under the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES).				

Influencing behaviours				
Levers	Progress levels			
	Basic	Early progress	Substantial progress	Mature
Promoting carbon reduction and recycling with businesses councils engage with, for example developing sector specific advice materials.				
Incentivise environmentally friendly behaviours, such as providing general business or specialist regulatory advice with the provision of environmental advice, subject to capacity.				
Working with event organisers to share unused food with charities.				
Market oversight: consumer confidence in green markets				
Levers	Progress levels			
	Basic	Early progress	Substantial progress	Mature
Enforcement or work to tackle fraud or mis-selling cases linked to green energy, such as solar panels or heat pumps.				
Providing consumer law advice for businesses operating in green markets, particularly regarding 'greenwashing' or misleading claims, such as organic status, carbon offset or the recyclability of a product or its packaging.				

Useful resources

- [A step-by-step guide for local authorities on transitioning the taxi trade to electric vehicles](#), Energy Saving Trust
- [Green events, Code of Practice – Vision 2025](#)
- [Trading Standards Wales: Position Statement, Contributing to the Environment & Climate Change](#)