

NPCC
National Police Chiefs' Council

Sustainability Strategy for Policing

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Sustainability Strategy for Policing

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1 Foreword

This strategy has been developed to ensure policing in England and Wales not only adheres to key legal and other requirements in relation to social value and the environment but also shows our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and our absolute focus on protecting, serving and enhancing our local communities.

We have a statutory role in the protection and policing of wildlife and preventing and protecting the public from emergency. The State of Nature report shows a 19% decline in UK species since 1970 and that nearly 1 in 6 species are now threatened by extinction. Scientific evidence shows the frequency and severity of extreme weather events are increasing as the climate warms, so forces will be called upon more often to manage public order, coordinate evacuations and assist in emergency response. Consequently, it is our legal and moral duty to protect the public and the natural environment now and for future generations.

Increased costs of materials and labour, impacts on the reliability of supply chains and availability of materials are consequences we are already facing to our delivery, and as the effects of climate change continue, the police service will become more expensive and difficult to deliver without change.

Delivery of this strategy will take collective effort across every police force and other key policing organisations. As such, this strategy has been developed to show what we, the NPCC Sustainability Governance Board, will do to embed sustainability into policing and continually improve at a national level, and actions you, our police forces, can do to embed sustainability and continually improve at a regional and local level.

"The scientific evidence shows our climate is changing. As an evidence-based service, we must commit to achieving net zero and adapting our infrastructure and services to a changing climate. This work is essential to ensure continuity and sustainability of our services to communities and efficient use of public money."



CC Gavin Stephens QPM
Chair
National Police Chiefs' Council

"Embedding sustainability within policing will enable us to deploy our resources more effectively while maximising our positive social value. Fostering a sustainable organisational culture will help attract and inspire the next generation of policing professionals, while delivering meaningful outcomes that contribute to a responsible future."



Lianne Deeming
Chief Executive Officer
BlueLight Commercial

2 What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development has been prominent in environmental policy since the mid-80s. The Brundtland Commission, appointed by the United Nations, defined sustainable development in the 'Our common future' report as development that:

> "Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." [1]

Current needs for food, energy and housing must be met while allowing resources for future generations to meet their own needs, balancing environmental protection, social equity, and economic development [2].

Sustainable development extends the concept of sustainability, which focusses on the ability of an ecosystem to subsist over time, to include society and the systems and behaviours it has constructed within the natural ecosystem. Promoting sustainable development focusses on societal change and its connections to the environment to lesser the impact upon it.

Sustainable development is widely seen to have three pillars:

1. **Social** (sometimes called People): relating to human values, relationships, and institutions
2. **Economic** (sometimes called Public Purse for public sector organisations): relating to economic development and resource management, including the allocation and distribution of finite resources
3. **Environmental** (sometimes called Planet): the effects of the economic and social elements on the environment and its natural resources [1,2]

Promoting sustainable development within the police means carrying out our duties in a way that minimises our impact on the environment and finite resources, the public purse and social injustice, preventing hindrance to fulfilling future duties.

Fossil fuels are a finite resource and cause environmental damage and disruption to society through climate change. Thus, working to reduce our contributions to climate change, making our operations less reliant on fossil fuels, will play a lead role in our sustainable development and our ability to provide an effective public service to our local communities.

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) published 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) [3] with the aim of achieving peace and prosperity for people and the planet, *seen in Figure 2*.



Figure 1 Three pillars of sustainable development [4,5].

Whilst not all the goals directly impact policing, there are cross-cutting issues and synergies between most of the goals and policing, including SDG3 on health and wellbeing, SDG4 quality education, SDG5 on gender equality, SDG7 on clean energy, SDG8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG10 on reducing inequalities, SDG11 on cities and communities, SDG12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG13 on climate action, SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG17 on partnerships.



Figure 2 UN sustainable development goals [6].

In 2025, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) signed the National Police Estates Group (NPEG) Environment & Sustainability sub-group's (ESG) Sustainability Charter. This includes a commitment to reduce the negative impacts associated with our operations, such as depleting national resources, causing harm to the environment or compromising the wellbeing of current and future generations, whilst working towards positive and long-lasting outcomes for our planet, the people within our organisations, the communities we serve, and the public purse.

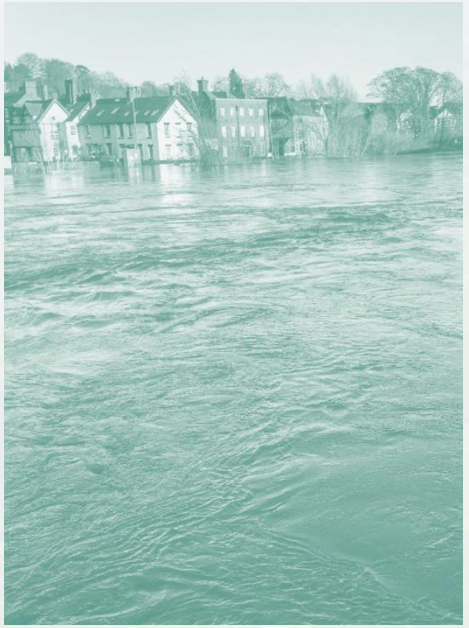
This strategy reaffirms the commitment in the Sustainability Charter to improve the environmental performance of policing and replaces it with a standardised approach to sustainability in policing that ensures all police forces (forces) work towards shared sustainability goals.

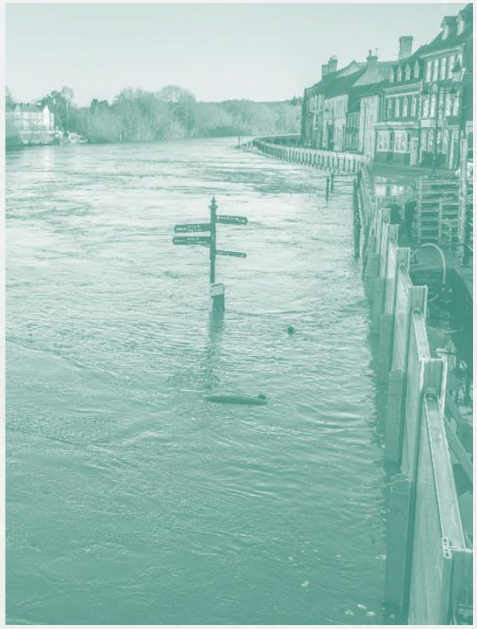
3 Why is it important?

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, we have a statutory duty to prevent and protect the public from emergency. The act defines emergency as an event or situation that threatens serious damage to human welfare or the environment, of which climate change threatens both [7]. In 2019, the UK government declared an environmental and climate emergency, *"recognising the devastating impact that volatile and extreme weather will have on UK food production, water availability, public health and through flooding and wildfire damage"* [8].

The Act defines threats to human welfare as a situation that involves, causes, or may cause:

- Loss to human life
- Human illness and injury
- Homelessness
- Damage to property
- Disruption of a supply of money, food, water, energy, or fuel
- Disruption to communication, transport, or health services [7]





Climate change has already caused loss of human life in the UK; 2022 brought the highest recorded temperature in the UK at 40.3 ºC causing ~2,985 excess deaths [9]. The heatwaves experienced in June 2026 also brought the highest recorded June temperatures, surpassing the extreme heat experienced in 1976, with a maximum of 37.7 ºC in England and 35.9 ºC in Wales [10]. ~ 2,700 people lost their lives prematurely across England and Wales because of the heat experienced in May and June 2026 [11]. The frequency and severity of extreme weather events are increasing as the climate warms.

Across the UK, mean precipitation during the winter half-year (October–March) over the past decade has been approximately 16% higher than in 1961–1990 [12,13]. This leads to flooding and damage of property, and disruption to transport and communication services. In 2024, Storm Darragh caused the Met Office to issue a rare red weather warning for Wales and south-west England, affecting around 3 million people. High winds of up to 90 mph and heavy rain destroyed power lines and trees causing over 2.3 million customers to lose power during the storm, with tens of thousands without electricity for several days. Trains and flights were also cancelled across the country [14].

Additionally, threats to the environment are defined as:

- Contamination of land water or air
- Disruption or destruction of plant or animal life [7]

Data from the State of Nature report show a 19% decline in UK species since 1970 and that nearly 1 in 6 species are now threatened by extinction. Evidence over the past 50 years indicates that the largest drivers of decline are the effects of climate change and the way we manage land and water for agriculture and fishing [15].

As the effects of climate change continue, the police service will become more expensive and difficult to deliver without change. Increased costs of materials and labour, impacts on the reliability of supply chains and available materials are consequences we are already facing to our delivery. The College of Policing has identified that Climate Change is expected to have far-reaching consequences for policing, reshaping both its operational demands and strategic priorities [16]. Forces will be called upon more often to manage public order, coordinate evacuations and assist in emergency response. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets out the police's commitment, as a government agency, to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (emissions) by 2050 [17,18]. In addition, under the Nationally Determined Contribution target, forces are required to support the UK government to reduce all emissions by at least 81% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels [18]. Each force is required to report its emissions annually which is standardised across all 43 forces from the 2025/26 reporting year.

The government expects public sector organisations like ours to lead by example, measuring and reducing organisational emissions to reduce contributions to climate change. Under the Civil Contingencies Act we also have a duty in working to prevent the emergency as well as reduce, control or mitigate its effects [7]. Similarly, as part of the UK's Local Resilience Forums we have a collective duty, alongside other category one responders to plan, prepare and communicate on matters of emergency [19].

Therefore, we recognise our responsibility to act to address the growing threat of climate change, its effects and the inequalities and social injustice it exacerbates. In addition, the Human Rights Act 1998 covers right to life, liberty and freedom of expression, and is integrated within policing. This has a direct impact on UN SDG16, SDG11 & SDG3.

This sustainability strategy sets out our economic, environmental, and social sustainability goals and how we will meet them. Changes made to policing to embed sustainable development may also result in co-benefits such as operational efficiencies, reduced costs, improved working environments for staff as well as operational resilience to climate change and improvements to the local area using purchasing power. Thus, this strategy works to improve policing for the public purse, people, and the planet.



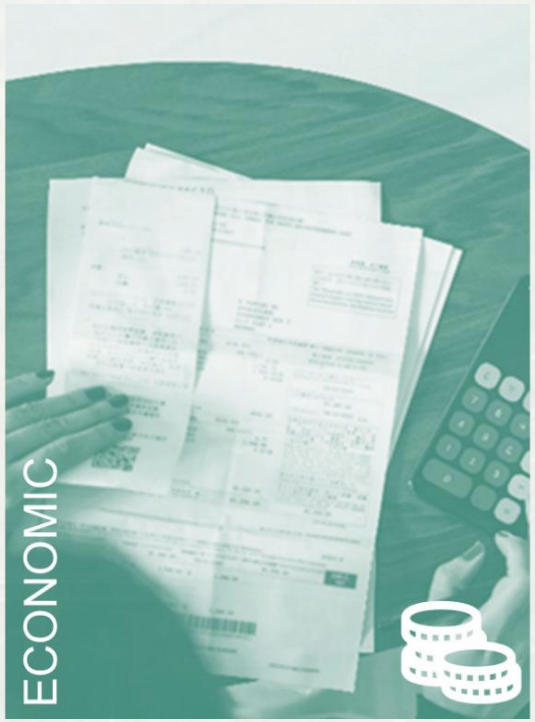
4 Our Strategy

Our strategy has been designed around the three pillars of sustainability, namely:

- Environmental sustainability,
- Economic sustainability, and
- Social sustainability

Each pillar provides an introduction to the topic area, actions that we are doing nationally to embed and improve sustainability in policing, and actions that can be carried out in individual forces whether your force is starting out, improving or accelerating. The strategy is designed to be a high-level framework incorporating sustainability impacts that are identified as significant to policing by the NPCC Sustainability Governance Board (SGB) and are not covered in other national policing strategy, such as the Culture & Inclusion Strategy. This strategy is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all sustainability (environmental, economic and social) mandated and legal requirements, or technical guidance on developing and implementing a management system to embed and improve sustainability into individual forces.







4.1 Environmental sustainability

4.1.1 Buildings and estate decarbonisation

The quality of our buildings is vital to the wellbeing of our staff, the quality of the service we can deliver and financial worth of our estate assets.

Our estate creates significant impacts on the environment through the consumption of resources, materials, energy and water; the creation of greenhouse gas emissions and waste*, air pollution emitted from diesel generators and boilers and potential habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity† from landscaping and ground maintenance practices to name a few.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) balanced pathway assumes an 87% reduction in non-residential building greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, through decarbonisation of heating systems. The public sector has driven emissions reductions in non-residential buildings by 47% since 1990. To support this pathway, the UK government has set the following emissions targets that all forces in England & Wales will aim to support:

- Reduce all direct emissions (scope 1 & 2) from public sector buildings by 50% by 2032 and by 75% by 2037, against 2017 baselines [20]

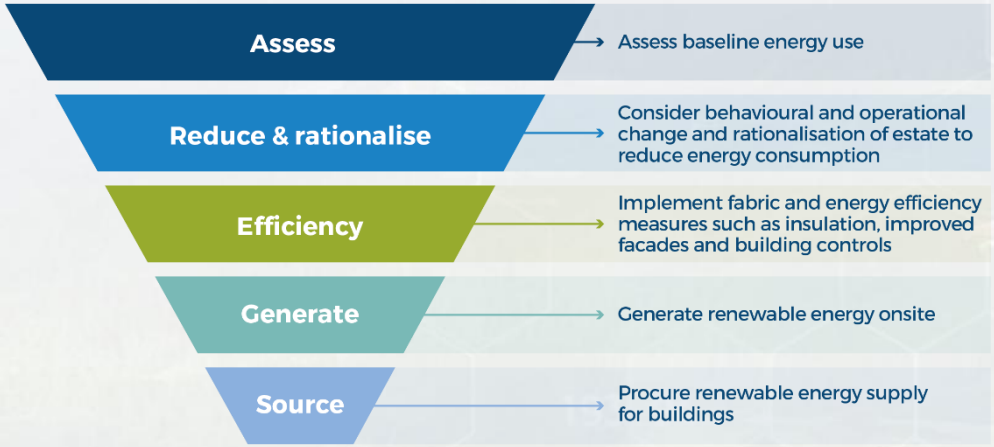


Figure 3 Building decarbonisation hierarchy

Creating sustainable, less emissive, and more efficient buildings will support our decarbonisation targets, the wellbeing of our staff and showcase the actions of public sector organisations as we move to reduce our impact on the public purse, our people, and the planet.

4.1.1.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, our Sustainable Estate workstream will engage with Green Building Council to develop a net zero standard for a police station and custody suite and will lobby GB Energy and other key stakeholders for assistance to decarbonise the police estate.

BlueLight Commercial (BLC) oversee goods and services procurement nationally for the police and will ensure national framework agreements are in place for decarbonisation services and low carbon technology.

* Waste is covered in section 4.2.1 Circular economy
† Habitat destruction and biodiversity is covered in section 4.1.3 Nature and biodiversity

4.1.1.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Following the decarbonisation hierarchy for buildings (*Figure 3*), forces should review their estate and building occupation levels to identify opportunities to rationalise the size of the estate to help save costs and optimise use.

Forces should also take the opportunity to review building energy and water consumption, using data from building management systems or through submetering. This will allow forces to identify and implement quick wins to reduce energy and water consumption, also helping to reduce costs and emissions whilst increase efficiency.

Forces should introduce a system for identifying, managing and mitigating environmental risks across their estate. This should include minimising the potential of:

- pollution on sites. For example, by storing waste in secure storage containers, keeping diesel stored in external bund or self-bunded tanks and only washing vehicles on site with permission from the local water authority and with the correct trade effluent licences or exemptions.
- noise, light pollution and other statutory nuisance across its estate.

B. Improving

Following a review of building occupancy and energy usage, forces should develop a heat decarbonisation plan aligned to its boiler replacement programme and net zero target. This plan should be integrated into the estate strategy to ensure an efficient and cost-effective transition to net zero.

The plan should be supplemented with detailed decarbonisation feasibility studies for individual buildings based on a whole building approach. This should include opportunities for retrofit such as building energy and water efficiency improvements, and alternatives such as grey water systems and roof top solar PV where possible. Proposed changes should be integrated into the estate capital and maintenance programmes.

Increasing the proportion of renewable energy and adding grey water recycling in the mix will strengthen organisational resilience against the fluctuations in costs and supply experienced in the fossil-fuel energy and water markets. Installation of efficient heat pumps may also lead to direct operational cost reductions. [21]

Forces should introduce a comprehensive management system for identifying, managing and continually improving its impacts on the environment, this should include a register of legislation and operational controls to manage and where possible, mitigate risks and ensure compliance.

C. Accelerating

In addition to the expansion of rooftop solar PV on buildings, forces should evaluate the implementation of other renewable energy technologies, such as solar canopies and battery storage, taking advantage of funding opportunities where available.

New builds and major retrofits should be designed and built to environmental standards such as BREEAM, in line with best practice Government Buying Standards for construction projects. Where practical, forces should seek to introduce green leasing terms when acquiring leased properties and shared spaces, or when letting owned properties or shared spaces to third parties.

Forces should explore opportunities to co-locate with partners such as other responders, public sector organisations or third sector partners to share costs and further rationalise the estate. This may also open opportunities to use collective powers to secure additional investment, either to improve the environmental efficiency and decarbonise existing buildings, or to advocate for new builds to be designed and built to high environmental standards.

4.1.1.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO14001 international standard for an environmental management system
- ISO50001 international standard for an energy management system
- BREEAM UK sustainability assessment and certification for building projects (new and retrofits)
- RICS WLCA UK whole life carbon assessment for the built environment
- PAS 2038 UK standard for retrofitting non-domestic buildings, focusing on energy efficiency and sustainability

4.1.2 Travel and fleet decarbonisation

Our police vehicles are one of the most visible symbols of police presence across the nation. Their quality is vital to the wellbeing of our staff and the service we deliver.

Surface transport is currently the highest emitting sector in the UK, accounting for 24% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2023. With over 31,000 vehicles, this is where forces can make a considerable reduction in emissions [22]. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) balanced pathway assumes an 86% reduction in surface transport emissions by 2040, through rapid electrification. To support this pathway, the UK government has set the following legally binding target that directly affects policing:

- 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain (GB) will now be zero emission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035 [23]

Air pollution also remains a public health concern, contributing to approximately 30,000 deaths per year in the UK [24]. Petrol and diesel-engined motor vehicles emit a wide variety of pollutants, principally carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter (PM10), which have a negative impact on air quality, particularly in urban environments [25].

Travelling in a more sustainable, less emissive, and efficient fleet will support our decarbonisation targets, the wellbeing of our staff and the local community. It will also showcase the actions of public sector organisations as we move to reduce our impact on the planet, the public purse, and our people.

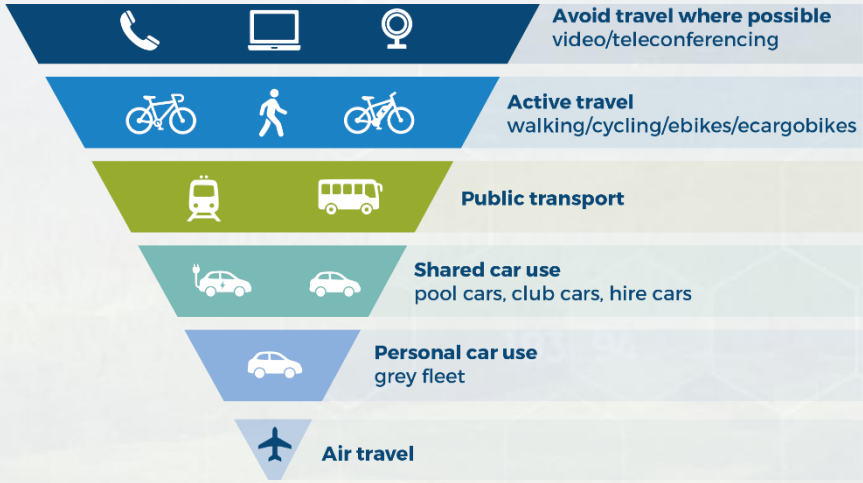


Figure 4 Sustainable travel hierarchy [26]

4.1.2.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, our Sustainable Transport workstream received funding in 2026 from the Home Office to undertake an evidence-based strategic assessment and programme design for a centralised team and the deliverables for a national rollout plan, and will continue to seek funding opportunities with national stakeholders.

BLC will ensure national framework agreements are in place for electric vehicles, charging infrastructure and back-office management systems.

4.1.2.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should review their fleet and vehicle utilisation levels to identify opportunities to rationalise its size. This will help to cut costs and optimise use whilst reducing emissions.

Forces should undertake a commuter survey and develop an active and sustainable travel plan to encourage employees and visitors travelling to site to make healthier and less carbon intensive choices.

Where practical, officers will be deployed on foot and on bikes, increasing visibility and accessibility in the community, improving air pollution and providing health benefits, all whilst reducing emissions and costs.

Forces should seek to align business travel to the sustainable travel hierarchy (
Figure 4) offering digital solutions to avoid travel, also saving time and expenses. Alignment will also promote active and sustainable travel wherever possible to improve health and wellbeing whilst reducing environmental impacts.

B. Improving

Following a review of fleet usage, forces should develop a detailed fleet decarbonisation plan, starting with transitioning non-response vehicles over to electric alternatives in alignment with its fleet replacement programme.

Forces should also assess local grid capacity and develop a detailed understanding of their journey patterns, dwell times, and daily energy requirements to plan for sufficient charging infrastructure [22].

Transitioning the fleet to electric vehicles will not only advance force decarbonisation objectives but also deliver operational cost efficiencies, as electric models have fewer maintenance requirements and lower fuel cost per mile than petrol and diesel equivalents.

Forces should repeat their commuter surveys regularly and update their active and sustainable travel plan accordingly. Forces should review and identify opportunities to improve travel facilities (e.g. changing rooms, showers, lockers, bike storage etc.) across the estate to encourage active and sustainable travel.

C. Accelerating

Forces should start transitioning operational vehicles to electric equivalents. As the choice of and specifications of electric vehicles becomes wider, rapid response vehicles and heavy vehicles such as riot vans can transition to electric equivalents while maintaining the ability to react quickly to emergency, sustain high speeds and provide regional coverage [22].

Forces should seek to share electric vehicle charging infrastructure with local public sector organisations and other partners. This will allow them to pool budgets and take advantage of funding opportunities made available through collaboration.

Similarly, forces should seek further opportunities to share infrastructure across the region including the use of multi-user central charging hubs. Forces should also explore on-street priority parking with local authorities, particularly in rural or remote locations where other charging options are limited.

4.1.2.3 Key standards and further information

- TRANSITIONING TO ZERO EMISSIONS CARS & VANS UK Governments 2035 Delivery plan
- PHASING OUT CONSULTATION 2025 UK Government summary of joint government response to consultation on phasing out sales of new ICE vehicles from 2030 and supporting the ZEV transition
- SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL HIERARCHY tips and advice from Energy Saving Trust
- LOW CARBON TRAVEL tips and advice from Energy Saving Trust
- ACTIVE TRAVEL tips and advice from Energy Saving Trust
- WALK WHEEL CYCLE TRUST guidance and resources to encourage employees to travel to work more sustainably

4.1.3 Nature and biodiversity

Biodiversity is essential for life on Earth, for healthy ecosystems, and for resilient economies with half of world GDP (over $44 trillion) moderately or highly dependent on nature and most verified emissions offset projects dependant on nature-based sequestration, such as UK Woodland Carbon Units. Despite this, global biodiversity is declining at unprecedented rates [27,28].

The Environment Act 2021 [29] requires public authorities to consider the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity on their estates. Therefore, we have a duty as a public agency to reduce our impact on the environment and further the conservation of habitats and species on our estates. There is value in enhancing green spaces on our estate and recognising the link between nature, an active lifestyle and good health and wellbeing, whilst also working towards our social sustainability goals and supporting our staff.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard our wildlife, protected and policed under legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation of Habitats, Species Regulations 2010, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 [30–32] and Section 6 of the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty: reporting guidance for Wales.



4.1.3.1 What we will do nationally

National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy for 2025-2028 [33] provides forces with a unique opportunity as policing has both direct and indirect responsibility to protect biodiversity.

For wildlife crime, the current priorities are Bat crime, Bird of prey crime (Golden Eagle, Goshawk, Hen Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Red Kite, and White-Tailed Eagle), Badger crime, illegal hunting, poaching and hare coursing, and illegal wildlife trade in CITES species. For rural crime, the current priorities are organised rural acquisitive crime, livestock worrying and theft, and machinery theft.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit have also developed a suite of online training courses for different aspects of wildlife crime and run a National Rural and Wildlife Conference each year.

4.1.3.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should review current grounds maintenance agreements and seek opportunities to enhance nature and biodiversity through minor changes to current land management practices, such as:

- reducing mowing,
- removal of land from intensive management to create a habitat mosaic to encourage pollinators and invertebrates,
- leaving leaf material for hibernation, and
- introducing native species in soft landscaping to enhance food, shelter and nesting sites for a range of native species [34]

Forces should assess opportunities to provide green spaces for employees across the estate and actively promote the link between nature and wellbeing.

Forces should include rural and wildlife crime in induction training for new officers and operational staff.

Forces should also establish a cohort of wildlife crime champions, from a broad range of different roles (control room, response, through to CID) across the force.

B. Improving

Forces should assess nature and biodiversity across their sites, identifying protected species and small-scale opportunities to improve and enhance nature and biodiversity (e.g. nesting boxes, wildflower verges or insect hotels). Forces should ensure protected species identified and improvements made, are integrated into grounds maintenance schedules and communicated to staff on site.

Forces should increase opportunities for employees to access green spaces across the estate. Forces should explore opportunities to establish a nature and wildlife staff network to improve biodiversity across the estate or at key sites, working with local nature and wildlife groups where possible.

Forces should have a process to identify rural and wildlife crimes and intelligence on its policing systems, and allocate ownership to ensure an effective response to emerging trends. Forces should explore opportunities for key individuals to specialise in aspects of wildlife crime, such as birds, bats, badgers etc.

C. Accelerating

Forces should survey sites with substantial grounds and identify larger scale opportunities to enhance nature and biodiversity, in line with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy where possible, which contains details of the local species to target for habitat creation [34].

Biodiversity and conservation projects can help to strengthen local community partnerships, enhance community wellbeing, support victims of crime and create rehabilitation opportunities. Where possible, forces should identify opportunities to share green spaces on the estate with other partners and the local community to enhance nature, biodiversity and community relations.

Rural and wildlife officers should build positive working partnerships with key nature and wildlife organisations such as Natural England and, where possible, local special interest and community groups. This may create opportunities to collaboratively research how specific changes brought about by police involvement in rural and wildlife crime has directly enhanced local nature and biodiversity.

4.1.3.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO17298 international standard for considering biodiversity in the strategy and operations of organisations
- BSI NATURE INVESTMENT STANDARDS UK voluntary standards for supply, storage and trade of nature credits
- NBSAP UK national biodiversity strategy and action plan
- DEFRA UK assessment of global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security
- DEFRA strengthens biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021
- ENVIRONMENT AGENCY position statement on nature-based solutions

4.2 Economic sustainability

4.2.1 Circular economy

Forces should adopt circular economy principles to minimise waste by maintaining materials and resources within productive use for as long as possible. This reduces the need to purchase new goods and services, which in turns directly reduces scope 3 emissions. Practices such as maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting should be embedded as standard, ensuring that disposal becomes a last resort rather than the default outcome, in accordance with the waste hierarchy [35].

Transitioning to a circular economy supports natural processes such as decomposition while significantly reducing the disruption, emissions and pollution associated with resource extraction, manufacturing, and waste disposal. By keeping materials from existing products in circulation, the demand for raw material acquisition is minimised, enabling more land to remain undisturbed or restored to natural habitats [36].

When waste is created, we have responsibility under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure it is stored, handled and disposed of safely and legally. Whilst the Environment Agency is responsible for controlling illegal waste, DEFRA outlined new responsibilities under the Waste Crime Action Plan [37] in 2026 that will affect the Policing & Crime Act. This includes a review of the Joint Unit for Waste (JUWC) to enhance the multi-agency response to waste crime from local to national, proactively identifying and pursuing opportunities to prevent, disrupt and prosecute offences.

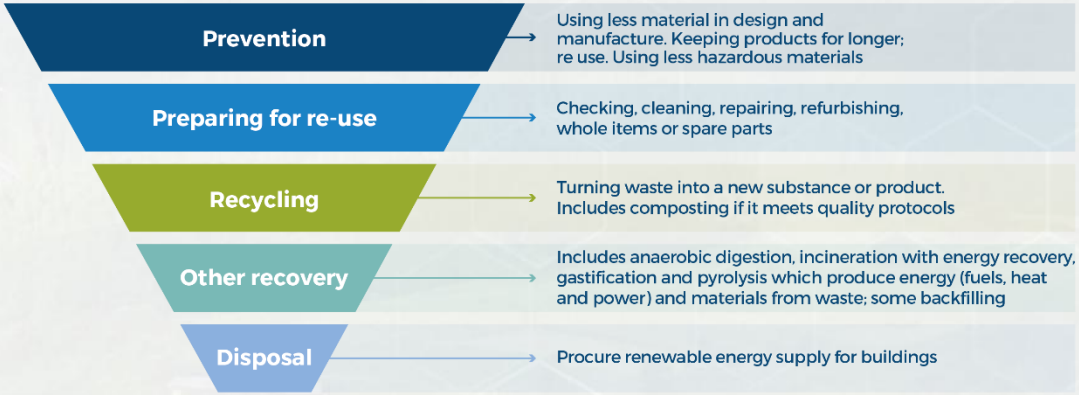


Figure 5 Waste hierarchy [35]

4.2.1.1 What we will do nationally

BLC's Responsible Procurement and Commissioning Strategy is designed to translate the national commercial vision into a clear framework and contribute towards wider national and sustainable development goals. A core focus for this strategy is supporting the circular economy. In addition, National Police Estates Group (NPEG) Environment & Sustainability sub-group (ESG) have an active circular economy workstream exploring collaborative projects to promote reuse, recycling and reduce waste.

NPCC is participating in the review of the JUWC and will feedback details of any required changes to operational policing to forces.

4.2.1.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should have a sustainable waste policy in place that is aligned to the waste hierarchy (*Figure 5*), prioritising prevention and favouring reuse over disposal. When disposal is necessary, forces should ensure this is carried out in the most sustainable way available to minimise the impact on the environment. This can also reduce costs, as landfill is significantly more expensive than recycling and some wastes, such as metals, can generate income.

Forces should identify opportunities to keep goods in use, such as redistributing unwanted stationery or repairing equipment and furniture. To assist with this, forces should maintain an inventory of spare and recovered stationery, furniture and equipment, making this the first point of call ahead of purchasing new products. This may also bring about opportunity to collaborate with partners, sharing repair skills or pooling funding for repair cafes.

Forces should keep up to date with changes coming out via NPCC on the Waste Crime Action Plan.

B. Improving

Forces should continue promoting circular economy principles by providing staff with the knowledge and resources to adopt new practices and allow for the proper segregation of materials. Forces should review and rollout out standardised waste facilities across its buildings including standardised bins and clear signage. Forces should also establish a process to monitor and continually improve waste contamination levels.

Forces should embed circular economy principles into their procurement process and ensure goods purchased are designed for longevity. Where possible, goods should be able to be refurbished or upgraded when broken, and to be separated into component parts for recycling at the end of their useful life [38]. Forces should replace single-use products with reusable alternatives where possible.

Forces should ensure any changes coming out of the Waste Crime Action Plan that directly affect policing are fully embedded into their relevant services and operational controls.

C. Accelerating

Forces should work with suppliers to reduce packaging and other transporting or storage materials to prevent waste coming into the Force. This may include use of return schemes and other closed loop improvements.

Waste disposal contracts should be reviewed to minimise materials being sent to landfill and incineration to reduce environmental impact and reduce costs. This review of waste streams will also help identify opportunities to turn waste into social value. For example, West Midlands police donate bicycles and clothing that are due for disposal from detained property stores to local charities, keeping materials out of landfill and helping to support the local community [39].

As estates are refurbished or forces move to new buildings, waste hubs should be designed into buildings at the outset, rather than being an afterthought. Forces should keep up to date with changes to JUWC and work with key partners to ensure a holistic approach to enforcement locally.

4.2.1.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO59004 international standard for adopting circular economy approach in organisations
- BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL WASTE UK responsibilities and other useful information on disposal of business or commercial waste
- HAZARDOUS WASTE UK responsibilities and other useful information on disposal of hazardous waste
- DEFRA UK Waste Crime Action Plan
- WRAP UK NGO providing free resources on waste and circular economy
- WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS UK information on environmental impacts of waste services, guidance & regulations, statistics and consultations
- IT REUSE FOR GOOD CHARTER UK Government backed guidance on wiping, refurbishing and redistributing equipment to tackle digital exclusion and reduce e-waste.

4.2.2 Business change and procurement

Business change is an integral part of modern policing as forces adapt to evolving priorities, dynamic operational needs and technological advances. The business change process, particularly for large and complex changes, involves development of business cases and Board papers to check viability, value for money and obtain approval to proceed, with the proposed solution often involving the procurement of goods, works or services.



As a government agency, the police must already abide by the Procurement Act 2023 which came into force in February 2025. This act aims to create a more simple and flexible procurement system, allowing new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises to compete for public contracts. It also allows for better transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that spending can be scrutinised [40,41].

The police are also required to consider how to secure wider social economic and environmental benefits under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This means that when procuring goods and services, forces must embed social values (sustainability) into tenders and think about how the goods are made or the way goods are bought could secure benefits for the local area [42]. Emissions must also be considered in the tendering process as scope 3 supply chain emissions often comprise over 50% of an organisation's carbon footprint.

4.2.2.1 What we will do nationally

BLC support forces in changing to more sustainable options. They are supporting the national sustainability programme for policing and align themselves with the UK's 2050 net zero target and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) [43]. Their Responsible Procurement and Commissioning Strategy ensures that police forces make procurement decisions that improve the environmental, social, and economic impact of their supply chains [44].

Central government have an obligation to ensure a minimum of 10% weighting for social value in evaluating bids and awarding procurement contracts [45]. Whilst not mandatory for the police, BLC have aligned their procurement strategies with this and provide support for forces to adopt the same [46]. BLC also developed and provide a Social Value Application and Measurement Toolkit to enable forces to understand, prioritise and measure social value [46]. There is also a specific emphasis on monitoring the social performance of the chosen supplier throughout the contract lifetime to guarantee whole life value.

BLC also provides guidance and tools for suppliers to review the wider impacts of their business and enact improvements. This can be shared with forces to demonstrate a commitment towards social value [46]. Forces can also access sustainable procurement specifications for frequently purchased goods and services on the Government Buying Standards website [47].

4.2.2.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should embed sustainability as a standalone requirement in their business change process, for large or complex projects, and should include a sustainability section in business cases and Board papers to ensure the decision makers are able to make fully informed decisions.

Forces should take the opportunity to embed social values into their procurement policy and processes by including social values in specifications and tender questions. Forces should allocate a minimum of 10% of the total score to social value in tenders, in line with central government and BlueLight Commercial, to support sustainability best practice in the public sector.

Forces should seek to adopt whole life costing (capital and revenue) into procurement and business change processes including acquisition costs, operational costs and end of life costs to ensure value for money across the life cycle of the product, service or change project. For example, the Royal Academy of Engineering found that for a typical office building, over a 30-year period, operational costs were substantially greater than capital costs [48]. Yet, many operational efficiency initiatives, such as grey water systems, are value engineered out at the design stage to save initial costs.

B. Improving

Forces should have a system in place to assess the sustainability (economic, environmental and social) impacts of large or complex business change projects. Opportunities to mitigate or reduce significant impacts through changes to the project should also be identified and costed, prior to seeking Board approval.

Likewise, procurement teams should have a system in place to assess the social value of goods, works and services prior to tender and identify opportunities to mitigate or reduce significant impacts through changes to specifications.

Forces should identify the goods and services emitting the highest greenhouse gas emissions in their supply chain and work with their suppliers to better understand and calculate their carbon footprint. In turn, creating a better picture of the force's scope 3 emissions.

C. Accelerating

Business cases and Board papers for large or complex projects should be developed in line with the Green Book and have a stand-alone sustainability section, which contains a sustainability impact assessment with mitigation options, whole life costs (capital and revenue), total greenhouse gas emissions (tCO_2e) and, if required, the cost of carbon offsets.

Forces should work with partners, other forces and public sector organisations to establish joint purchasing frameworks to increase economies of scale and value for money.

Forces should work with suppliers and contractors to identify opportunities to continually improve the sustainability of goods and services across all operations. Forces should work with the highest emitters in their supply chain to identify opportunities to reduce scope 3 supply chain emissions.

4.2.2.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO 20400 international standard for integrating sustainable procurement into organisations
- BLC SOCIAL VALUE working in collaboration with blue light organisations on procurement activities
- GCA SUSTAINABILITY UK Government Commercial Agency sustainable procurement strategies and information
- SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT UK Government Buying Standards
- GREEN BOOK UK Government guidance on appraisal, the process of assessing the costs, benefits and risks of different options for achieving government objectives Buying Standards

4.2.3 Efficiency and technology

Whilst the overall objectives of the Police Reform are to more effectively address crime, the underpinning principles include a drive to improve efficiency with the initial phase of the reform seeing the creation of the Police Performance Unit (PPU) in the Home Office and a Police Efficiencies & Collaboration programme (PECP). This will implement a comprehensive approach to commercial efficiencies, leverage data to better understand system performance and facilitate effective business transformation, including centralising key support services such as ICT and legal functions.



Technology underpins our operations; we rely on it to support our work in keeping people safe, responding to crime, communicating effectively to each other and to collaborate with our partners. Forces must ensure the safety and security of ICT while considering its impact on energy use and emissions, as well as the direct impact of a warming climate on our ICT operations.

The PECP is a UK government initiative that aims to modernise police operations, finding opportunities to save through collaboration, reducing administrative burdens, and adopting new technology to reinvest in frontline services [49]. Many of the aims and procedures addressed for sustainability have efficiency implications, streamlining workflows and making better use of resources and funds.

4.2.3.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, BLC has been consistent in meeting savings targets since 2020 through its use of national frameworks and contracts, generating £112 million of direct benefits up to 2024-2025 [50]. Our Sustainability Strategy & Policy workstream is working with the Home Office to ensure sustainability is embedded into the National Policing Information Technology Reform Strategy and BLC will continue to work with Home Office on the Police Reform to ensure sustainability is embedded into other areas of the PECP programme.

The College of Policing has created a productivity diagnostic insight tool (PDIT) which is available to all forces in England & Wales to access. This tool enables forces to identify between force similarities and differences, and consequently opportunities to increase productivity [50]. The College of Policing PDIT tool aims to improve forces' understanding of how resource allocations and demand affect productivity to support future investment decisions [38].

4.2.3.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should have processes in place to review and improve the reliability of data and information gathered, making it easier to identify opportunities to lean processes, improve productivity and remove inefficiency [51,52].

Forces should review ICT equipment, identifying opportunities to reduce and optimise equipment, and have an asset management plan in place that ensures ICT equipment is up to date, fit for purpose and energy efficient.

Forces should use the College of Policing PDIT to understand and compare their workforce capacity across functions to inform the Force Management Statement and consequently resource allocation decision-making.

B. Improving

The College of Policing sets standards for policing [50,51]. Forces should adopt national standards and purchase through national frameworks where possible to standardise procedures and requirements. This will minimise the resources and budget required to develop bespoke solutions.

Forces should review and optimise their data storage requirements, identifying opportunities to improve energy efficiency and resilience. Forces should rationalise on-site servers where possible by moving to cloud-based solutions based on a life cycle analysis to assess viability. In addition to the financial viability, the significant environmental footprint of the data centres must also be considered in the life cycle analysis as they use large volumes of potable (drinking) water for cooling and around 2.5% of UK's electricity. This proportion is anticipated to quadruple by 2030 due to the expansion of AI [52].

Forces should be using the College of Policing PDIT tool and practice bank to identify opportunities to improve services identified during the PEEL Assessment as requiring improvement or being inadequate.

C. Accelerating

Forces should explore opportunities to share services, particularly enabling services such as HR, EDI, sustainability, procurement etc. with partners, other forces or public sector organisations to reduce resources and improve economies of scale. Opportunities to improve efficiency may also emerge by aligning best practice polices and processes.

Forces should identify opportunities to improve internal processes and service provision through responsible use of AI and other digital solutions. An example of responsible use of AI is by creating effective prompts using the 'ROCKS' method to reduce the iterations needed to produce useful output (see 4.2.3.3). Any approved changes should be fully integrated into the Force's ICT delivery plan.

Forces should actively use the College of Policing PDIT tool and practice bank to identify opportunities, beyond those identified in the PEEL assessment, to improve services and embed best practice across services.

4.2.3.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO9001 international standard for quality management systems indicates that an organisation has policies and procedures in place to assure quality, that these are followed and are regularly updated
- ISO27001 international standard for information security management indicates that an organisation adheres to data security standards
- ROCKS method for effective and sustainable use of AI

4.3 Social sustainability

4.3.1 Civil contingency and resilient communities

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, police have a statutory duty to prevent and protect the public from emergency [7]. Alongside other responders and organisations, our forces maintain an active community risk register, identifying and anticipating risks from flooding, disease, and disruption to infrastructure so that we can plan to keep communities safe [19].



The Climate Change Act [17] also allows the UK government to require public sector organisations to report on their adaptation efforts. Anticipating, mitigating, and responding to risk is a core function of policing and so forces must understand the risks of climate change to their infrastructure, services and resources and put in place plans to adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

Police buildings, infrastructure and assets are vulnerable to damage from flooding, storms, extreme temperatures, landslips, coastal erosion, and sea level rise. Both operational and desk-based staff face health, safety, and wellbeing risks from extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, storms, and wildfires. These hazards, along with cascading failures in transport, energy, digital and telecommunications networks, can disrupt police operations across land, sea, and air.

Demand for police resources is expected to increase as officers respond to emergencies caused by hazardous events and as changing weather patterns influence public behaviour, potentially leading to more violent or opportunistic crimes during extreme heat or public disorder incidents. Hotter, drier summers may also intensify seasonal demand due to increased tourism. However, it was also found that warmer winters could present a potential benefit, with fewer road traffic collisions resulting from milder and less icy conditions [16,53].

4.3.1.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, our Sustainability Strategy & Policy workstream is working with the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for police to identify and coordinate research on the impacts of climate change on our services, infrastructure and workforce in partnership with the Policing Academic Centre of Excellence (P-ACE) and other key scientific and academic stakeholders and researchers. The SGB is responsible for developing and delivering the police services sub-system in the next National Adaptation Plan (2028-2033), which will include the development of adaptation toolkits, guidance and training modules to assist police forces to plan and manage the individual impacts of climate change on future police services.

4.3.1.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should conduct a risk assessment to identify current risks and potential future (2050) risks based on a 2-degree average global warming scenario from:

- The impact of severe weather events on force services and crime
- The impact of severe weather events on staff and officer health and wellbeing
- The impact of severe weather events on transport infrastructure, force buildings and ICT [54]

For example, in 2025 Devon & Cornwall Police commissioned its Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) and Climate change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which identified fifty climate change impacts for the force [55].

Key climate change risks identified should be integrated into the force risk register, existing business continuity and other emergency preparedness plans and controls.

Forces should work with local resilience partners to consider the early identification and inclusion of voluntary groups and grass route organisations in emergency planning. Volunteer groups with specialist skills, such as the RNLI and mountain rescue are equipped to assist emergency responders with rescue, welfare checks and evacuation. Grassroots organisations can also assist with household and community preparedness and provide social and psychological support [56].

B. Improving

Forces should identify adaptation solutions for the climate change risks identified in the assessment and incorporate them into a climate change adaptation plan.

Adaptation solutions for the impact of severe weather events on transport infrastructure, force buildings, ICT and staff should be integrated into enabling services (estates, fleet, HR etc.) strategic plans to ensure a co-ordinated and holistic transition. For example, the introduction of cooling areas in buildings, air conditioning into vehicles and home working to tackle severe heat.

Likewise, forces should identify and integrate adaptation solutions into operational processes and controls. For example, the introduction of severe weather controls for amber and red health-heat alerts and implementation of options to reduce the impacts of extreme heat on services and police officers, including police dogs and horses.

Forces should communicate climate change risks and plans to staff and officers. Forces should share their climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan with the local authority and key partners responsible for managing the regional adaptation strategy to ensure a co-ordinated approach to adaptation locally.

C. Accelerating

Forces should work with local resilience partners to engage proactively with communities to address fears and inform the public of changing risks, helping them to build resilience during severe weather events.

Forces should work with partners to identify and proactively engage with marginalized populations, including low-income communities and vulnerable citizens, who are disproportionately affected by climate change, to seek opportunities to improve climate justice. This may include signposting citizens to organisations best placed to provide tailored support, such as organisations helping those in fuel poverty and improving living conditions [57,58].

Forces should coordinate with partners, other forces and public sector organisations to develop a formal framework that will enable resource and capability sharing across the region. This will ensure critical public services can continue to operate effectively during severe weather events.

4.3.1.3 Key standards and further information

- NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP3) UK report setting out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change 2023-2028
- UK GOVERNMENT understanding adaptation and NAP3
- MET OFFICE UK general information on climate change adaptation
- MET OFFICE UK get climate ready information on wat you can do to protect our warming planet
- MET OFFICE UK climate projections (UKCP18)
- MACC HUB UK co-funded by UKRI and DEFRA to address critical gaps in adaptation planning, implementation and capability

4.3.2 Public service and community safety



The shift toward a low-carbon economy will bring new forms of environmental regulation and criminality. Police will need to enforce environmental laws, investigate fraud and corruption linked to carbon markets and potentially deal with emerging offences such as environmental destruction or “ecocide.” This will demand new areas of expertise and closer collaboration with regulators and international bodies. Alongside these responsibilities, climate activism and protest are likely to become more frequent and, in some cases, more confrontational as sections of the public express frustration at perceived inaction and social injustice. Managing large-scale demonstrations and politically charged environmental movements will therefore become a more routine part of police work [16,59].

Resource scarcity will generate further challenges. As competition intensifies for essentials such as food, water and energy, organised crime groups may exploit shortages, creating black markets and engaging in fraud or corruption. At the same time, climate-related pressures, ranging from droughts to disrupted supply chains, are expected to aggravate existing social inequalities, fuelling public anger, unrest, and distrust in institutions. Police may increasingly find themselves navigating social divisions made worse by environmental and economic stress. Consequently, demand for police resources is expected to increase as officers respond to these societal impacts of civil unrest, migration, and new forms of organised crime [16,53].

Globally, climate change will contribute to population displacement and mass migration, adding complexity to transnational crime, trafficking, and border security. These developments will require stronger international collaboration and intelligence-sharing to manage humanitarian pressures and criminal exploitation. In severe scenarios, where environmental disasters and economic crises coincide, policing could face systemic breakdowns marked by weakened state capacity, energy insecurity, high unemployment, and rising crime. Conversely, in a more sustainable “green reset” future, police will still be needed to uphold new environmental protections and ethical standards as societies adjust to sustainability-focused governance [16].

Overall, climate change will make the police operating environment more complex, uncertain, and interconnected. Forces will have to adapt organisationally and technologically, becoming more flexible, collaborative, and resilient. Managing the social, economic, and criminal consequences of environmental change will require policing not just to respond to immediate emergencies, but to play a key role in supporting stability and public trust amid the long-term disruptions of a warming world.

4.3.2.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, our Sustainability Strategy & Policy workstream will ensure research into the effects of climate change on policing will also include the effects on existing and new forms of crime, civil disorder, and mass migration, and that this is reflected in the police services sub-system in the next National Adaptation Plan (2028-2033).

4.3.2.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should enhance their climate change risk assessments and adaptation plans to include:

- New offences such as environmental destruction or “ecocide”
- Increased climate-related protests
- The effects of extreme weather events on new forms of organised crime
- The impacts of global climate migration on citizen safety [54]

Forces should fully integrate these newly identified risks into their force risk register and, where applicable, business continuity and other emergency preparedness plans.

To meet these challenges, forces should improve awareness and, where necessary develop specialist capabilities supported by new technology.

Forces should measure the carbon cost of crime [60,61] and include this figure alongside financial costs of crime.

B. Improving

Forces should integrate adaptation solutions for new offences emerging as a consequence of climate change into operational procedures and controls. The College of Policing crime reduction toolkit can help forces understand how they can best work with partner organisations to prevent emerging crimes [62].

Forces should also have a system in place to identify emerging technology-linked environmental crimes, including e-waste trafficking, cryptocurrency pollution and carbon credit fraud to strengthen preparedness, improve awareness, and develop specialist capabilities. Forces should work with the College of Policing [56,63] to ensure any new intelligence, best practice guidance or controls for newly emerging crime are shared with other forces to ensure a joined-up approach and prevent duplication.

Forces should identify opportunities to reduce the carbon cost of crime. This should be monitored alongside the financial costs in management reports and KPIs.

C. Accelerating

Forces should work with other forces, law enforcement agencies and partners to update multi-agency operational processes and controls to incorporate the newly identified forms of crime emerging because of climate change.

Forces should identify opportunities to work with organisations beyond law enforcement agencies such as environmental regulators and non-governmental organisations to help local communities understand how they may adapt to new forms of crime emerging as a consequence of climate change.

Forces should measure and identify opportunities to reduce the carbon cost of newly identified crimes emerging because of climate change.

4.3.2.3 Key standards and further information

- ISO14092 international standard guidance on adaptation planning for local government and communities
- CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE A Well-Adapted UK the fourth independent assessment of UK climate risk
- LCAT UK local climate adaptation tool showing health and community impacts that may occur as the result of climate change
- CLIMATE JUST UK web tool for public service providers to identify communities vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty
- SKUDDER ET. AL, Addressing the Carbon-Crime Blind Spot: A Carbon Footprint Approach, an academic research paper on calculating the carbon costs of crimes
- SKUDDER, Carbon Cost of Crime, doctoral thesis

4.3.3 Engagement and collaboration



Environmental education is key to understanding the opportunities for sustainable development and preventing climate change. Decision makers must be equipped with the skills to embed sustainability at a strategic level and address the impacts of climate change on policing, by adapting estates and fleet, building social values and resilience into supply chains and understanding the impacts of increasing temperatures on officers and their service. Feeling informed can also empower and engage staff to take action to embed sustainability in their force. Tailored communications that convey climate and sustainability information to the audience in a way that resonates with staff values or interests can help encourage behaviour change [64,65]

Collaborating with multi-agency partners through the Local Resilience Forum and other networks is critical to maintain awareness of local sustainability initiatives and climate-related risks to ensure effective support for communities in instances of extreme weather events [19].

Addressing economic, environmental and social challenges, and advancing sustainable solutions must also be a shared responsibility across public sector, businesses, third-sector organisations, and local communities. As we progress toward our sustainability objectives, maintaining and fostering new partnerships will become increasingly important for optimising resources, sharing facilities, and pooling expertise. Through a collaborative effort resilient communities can be fostered; communities that are able to adapt and react to the impacts of climate change and other sustainability challenges.

4.3.3.1 What we will do nationally

Nationally, the SGB and BLC will continue to work in collaboration with key stakeholders on our national sustainability programme for policing (*see section 6*).

We will also continue to work with public health partners to develop resources to assist forces to adopt the role of an "Anchor institution" within their communities. This approach highlights the benefits of policing taking on this socially responsible role, aiming to foster stronger, safer communities through proactive engagement, support, and a public health approach to policing. Policing organisations are examples "Anchor institutions" deeply rooted in their communities [66–68]. This initiative is aimed predominantly at forces and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) or mayoral equivalents to help unlock the potential to positively impact local social, economic, and environmental conditions. By intentionally developing these Anchor roles, forces may address their social responsibility, improve primary prevention strategies, collaborate with partners, and better respond to complex vulnerabilities. A focus on prevention and early intervention is key to reducing crime, lowering police demand, and meeting the UK government goals like reducing knife crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

4.3.3.2 What forces should do locally

A. Starting Out

Forces should have an executive lead for sustainability and should establish a cohort of sustainability champions from a broad range of roles to proactively advocate for sustainability and support behaviour change with colleagues and peers.

To enhance knowledge and develop specialist capabilities the executive sustainability lead and representative from the sustainability cohort should complete the Carbon Literacy or other sustainability training.

Forces should explore opportunities with local partners and public sector organisations to advocate for small scale / quick-win opportunities for community improvement and engagement. For example, running a multi-agency and community volunteering day to enhance a neglected local green space. Benefits delivered can extend beyond environmental sustainability promoting wellbeing and social cohesion to create safer communities.

Forces should complete the Anchors self-assessment and develop an implementation plan to become an Anchor institution [69].

B. Improving

Forces should introduce a sustainability group or staff network that manages and monitors actions to embed and continually improve sustainability in the force. The group should provide regular sustainability awareness and campaigns to ensure colleagues are engaged and introduce positive changes to nudge behaviour. These could be changes to the physical environment to make recycling individual components easier for example, by placing specific bins close to the source of the waste. Or, by using prompts to encourage behaviour such as stickers to remind staff to turn off IT equipment [70].

The force's sustainability lead or appropriate representative from the sustainability group should regularly attend regional and national sustainability networks on behalf of the force to ensure the force keeps up to date with sustainability innovation, opportunities for collaboration and joint funding, and are sharing best practice.

Forces should also join local and/or regional Anchors groups to identify opportunities to enhance partnership collaborations and improvements using economies of scale and shared funding options.

C. Accelerating

Forces should collaborate with partners across the public sector, business, and academia to identify and pilot innovative projects that make delivering sustainability more achievable and affordable. This collaborative approach also ensures that our sustainability initiatives are evidence-based, scalable and aligned with the advancements in innovation.

Forces should share the results of successful projects with other forces and add examples of best practice to the College of Policing practice bank to ensure a joined-up approach and prevent duplication [50].

Forces should identify opportunities to co-locate with multi-agency partners to implement fully integrated services to address the needs of communities, particularly vulnerable communities disproportionally affected by crime. This may also increase effectiveness of services and reduce costs.

Forces should identify and implement an action plan to move towards being an 'excellent' Anchor institution and use the Anchors framework to enhance other public health approaches in policing, such as Clear, Hold, Build [68].

4.3.3.3 Key standards and further information

- COMMUNICATING ON CLIMATE CHANGE UN guidance on communicating climate change to different audiences
- UK GOVERNMENT research and analysis on adopting green choices and behaviours
- ENERGY SAVING TRUST why sustainable behaviour change in the workplace is important
- ENERGY SAVING TRUST how to engage your employees with sustainability
- CAST UK Climate Change Committee commissioned an evidence review into the Implications of Behavioural Science or Effective Climate Policy

5 Monitoring, measuring and reporting

5.1 Greenhouse gas emissions

Each force is required to report its emissions annually under the Climate Change Act. This resulted in fragmented carbon footprints between individual forces in terms of coverage, methodologies, and compliance. An example of partnership working is seen with the five South West forces*, where with support from the University of Exeter, resources were pooled to develop a framework for a uniform greenhouse gas emissions inventory (sometimes called a carbon footprint) based on ISO 14064-1 [71] and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol [72]. Since the 2021/22 financial reporting year, a carbon footprint has been produced for each of the five forces annually by the University using a bespoke spreadsheet tool populated with information from a wide range of sources provided by the five forces, with the final calculated outputs displayed via dashboards and reports.

The SGB have expanded this approach nationally with the University of Exeter to improve the quality, homogeneity, and efficiency of emissions reporting in England & Wales. A standard scope and calculations methodology with an accompanying set of calculation tools and standardised outputs were developed, rolled out and national reporting has commenced for the 2025/26 financial reporting year. This common national calculation and reporting approach ensures all forces are brought to a minimum standard.

To support the UK government emissions targets, all forces in England & Wales will aim to achieve the following goals:

Goal 1: Net zero emissions (scopes 1, 2 and 3) by 2050

Goal 2: Reduce direct emissions (scopes 1 & 2) from buildings by 50% by 2032, 75% by 2037 and 87% by 2040 against a 2023 baseline

Goal 3: Reduce direct fleet emissions (scope 1) by 86% by 2040 against a 2023 baseline

5.2 Sustainability performance

In addition to measuring, monitoring and reporting their emissions, forces should benchmark their sustainability performance using the national sustainability self-assessment and put in place a sustainability action plan to continually improve. Forces should reassess their performance annually to monitor progress and update their action plan accordingly.

To support a national standardised approach to sustainability for policing, forces should aim to achieve the following goal:

Goal 4: Embed sustainability into individual forces, aiming for an overall “accelerating” self-assessment rating

* Avon, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire.

6 Governance and scrutiny

The NPCC Sustainability Governance Board (SGB) is responsible for managing and co-ordinating the national sustainability programme for policing. The Board is Chaired by the Chief Operating Officer for BLC and comprises of representatives from all key policing organisations including Home Office, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), College of Policing, Police Chief Scientific Adviser and key workstream leads from forces.

SGB are responsible for identifying and rolling out workstreams to embed sustainability at a national level, including the development of a national sustainability strategy for policing and rollout of national greenhouse gas reporting for all 43 forces.

SGB work closely with National Estates Police Group (NPEG) Environment & Sustainability sub-group (ESG), which comprises of sustainability colleagues from individual forces to ensure a collaborative approach to embedding and continually improving sustainability in policing.

The aim of this strategy is for everyone to take responsibility and accountability for the impact of their actions, with support from SGB and NPEG ESG. Consequently, each force should embed sustainability into their force and governance structure. Forces should:

- publish a sustainability strategy or action plan with targets
- establish a sustainability lead or group to manage and monitor progress against targets
- regularly update on progress submitted to a Tier 1 / Executive Board, and
- publish an annual sustainability report to show progress against national policing sustainability goals

Each PCC or Mayor will scrutinise progress and hold their force to account for meeting the statutory, mandatory, and other requirements laid out in their sustainability strategies or action plan.

HMICFRS will require a sustainability update within force management statements to ensure forces are actively decarbonising their operations, whilst anticipating, mitigating, and responding to risk of climate change in line with their statutory requirements and locally published commitments.

7 Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	Adjustments to policies, infrastructure or operations to reduce the impacts of climate change and increase resilience.
Anchor institution	A large public organisation with a long-term presence in a community that can use its resources and influence to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes.
Biodiversity	The variety of living organisms in an ecosystem.
Carbon footprint	The total greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation, activity, product or service, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e).
Circular economy	An economic/consumption model that keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible through reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Atmospheric gasses that trap and reflect heat back to the Earth's surface including water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, Nitrous oxide and Ozone.
Net Zero	Achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and emissions removed from the atmosphere.
Scope 1 Emissions	Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the organisation, such as fuel used in police vehicles.
Scope 2 Emissions	Indirect emissions from purchased electricity
Scope 3 Emissions	Indirect emissions occurring in the value chain, including procurement, waste, travel and supply chains
Social Value	Social, economic and environmental benefits generated through organisational activities and procurement decisions.
Sustainability	Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The 17 United Nations goals that aim to improve prosperity, equality and environmental protection globally.
Whole Life Costing	Assessment of all costs associated with an asset, project or service across its entire lifecycle, including acquisition, operation, maintenance and disposal.

Acronym	Definition
APCC	Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
BLC	BlueLight Commercial
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Plan
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
ESG	Environment and Sustainability Sub-Group
FMS	Force Management Statement
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HMICFRS	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
JUWC	Joint Unit for Waste Crime
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
NAP	National Adaptation Programme
NPCC	National Police Chiefs' Council
NPEG	National Police Estates Group
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PECP	Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme
PDIT	Productivity Diagnostic Insight Tool
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGB	NPCC Sustainability Governance Board
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
UN	United Nations

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