

Climate Change Readiness Assessment Tool V1.0

The tool aims to assess the degree to which climate change mitigation and adaptation measures have been considered in a development proposal. It does not attempt to establish greenhouse gas emissions or savings. The tool should be used in conjunction with the Staffordshire Moorlands Climate Change and Planning Guidance which sets out the rationale behind the need for significant and rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the reduction trajectories needed to remain within the greenhouse gas budgets and compliance with the legal duty to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and the international aim to maintain global temperature rise to within 1.5 to 2.0°C this century. This assessment tool is based on a metric originally prepared by Vision Derbyshire in 2023, for use by local authorities in Derbyshire.

The assessment should be carried out for all developments using a combination of the relevant assessment tabs. The 'calculator' tab displays the results numerically as a percentage and as a colour coded graph indicating which elements of the proposal could be improved in their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. A 'Red, Amber, Green' traffic light system is used to quickly identify whether or not a category of measures has been adequately addressed in the development proposal. It is not intended that this should be used as a 'Pass/Fail' indication in the determination of a planning application. It is an indication of the degree to which a proposal has included climate change considerations. Determination is a matter for the local planning authority.

The assessment tabs include:

Built environment, including design, layout and construction, applicable to residential development.

Commercial, including design, layout and construction applicable to non-residential development.

Green Infrastructure, biodiversity net gain, habitat conservation, enhancement and creation.

Energy generation, primarily considering proposals for the generation of renewable energy.

Reducing the need for travel and promoting active travel: This includes some design and layout considerations.

Managing the water environment for conservation of natural habitats, resource protection and the prevention and adaptation to flooding and extreme weather.

A sustainable approach to minerals development, considering both operational and after-use elements.

A sustainable approach to waste development both operational and resource efficiency.

A score displayed as red will be less than 34% and should be considered to require improvement to be acceptable. Scores between 35% and 72% indicate an area where improvement may be required, while scores over 73% are considered acceptable although further improvement may be possible and may offset inadequacies elsewhere.

The scores are displayed numerically and in a RAG rated bar graph to provide clear identification of areas for improvement. Separate scoring tabs indicate the aggregated scores for categorised development types.

Scoring the 8 categories in the assessment tabs is based on the degree to which an issue has been considered and included in a proposal.

The scoring is based on the criteria below. It is only necessary to score each measure with a 1 in one of the columns as each measure is weighted (based on the potential for greenhouse gas reduction) in the final calculation. For example the provision of solar PV therefore scores higher than the provision of cycle storage space, as PV will reduce the carbon footprint of a building while cycle storage may only encourage the active travel.

Issue not considered: automatically scores 0

Issue considered but rejected/not included in the proposal: this must be backed up by acceptable reasoned justification, otherwise it is scored as a 'Not considered'. If justification is accepted, score 1.

Partially implemented: For example, solar PV has been installed on only a limited proportion of properties within a scheme or is not installed to its full potential. Score 1.

Fully implemented: Here the proposal has been considered and its contribution to mitigation or adaptation has been maximised. Score 1.

Not applicable: Enter a 1 in this field if this measure is not applicable to the proposal under consideration, for example, not all development sites will include existing structures, therefore these cannot be retained where they are not present. This will enable the field to be discounted in the calculations if it is not applicable.

As each of the measures is weighted, and this weighting is used in the calculation of the total scores, it is only necessary to enter a 1 in each of the scoring options.