

Climate change & The cost of living

Faith Everett, BFC Climate Change Officer

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Climate change

Across the UK, the implications of climate change are unavoidable.



A recent survey found **that 8/10 people in the UK are worried about climate change.**



Winter, spring, and summer 2022 were warmer and drier than average. A heatwave in July 2022 brought record high temperatures for England, Scotland, and Wales.

The cost of living crisis

Households in the UK are feeling the financial squeeze. Last month, **91%** of UK households reported an increase in their cost of living. The households involved mainly attributed the increase to:



Rise in the costs of food



Rapidly rising utility bills

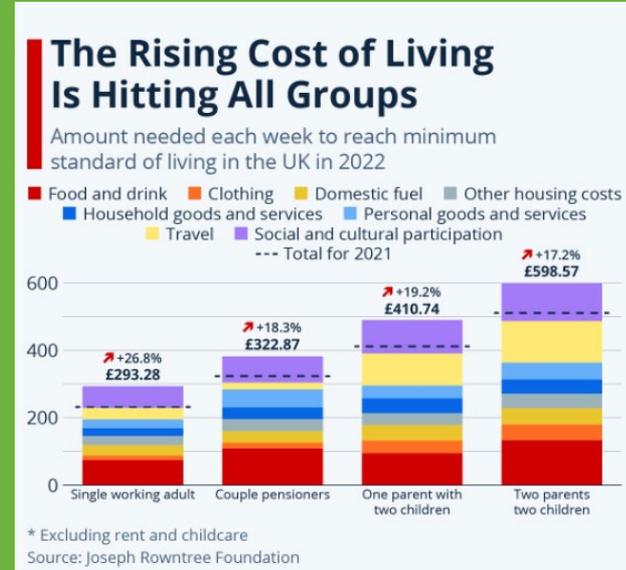
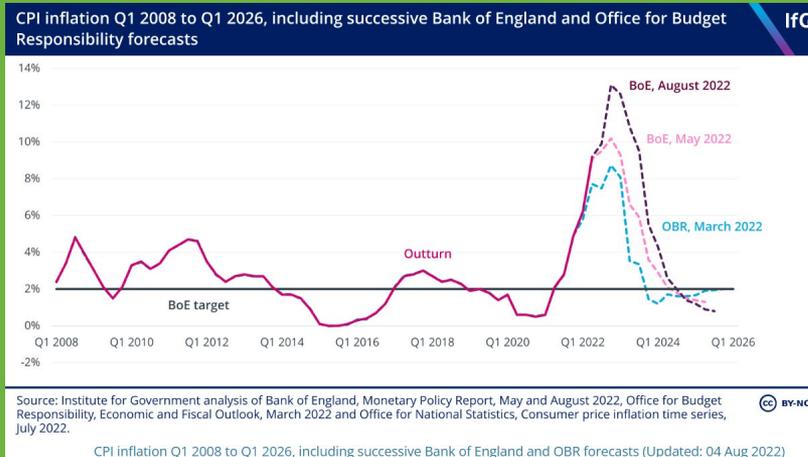


A sharp increase in the cost of fuel



What does this cost of living crisis look like for a Bracknell Forest resident?

- The average family of 4 in the UK spends about £163 on food shopping per week. That's 8% up on last year.
- The average energy bill per month for a 3 bed home is estimated to jump from £164 to £296 this year.
- Last month, the average cost of fuel was £1.92 per litre for petrol, and £1.99 for diesel. That's around 40-45% higher than the year before.

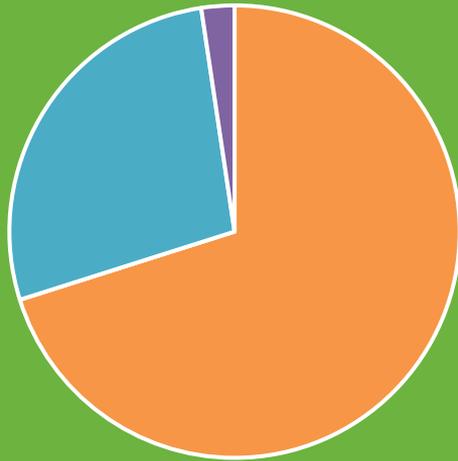


What practical help can we offer to residents to save costs whilst looking after the planet at the same time?

What we're doing... ⚡ Energy ⚡

Energy consumption contributes to greenhouse gas emissions across the borough. The most recent research suggests that domestic gas use contributes up to 70% of domestic energy emissions across Bracknell Forest.

Domestic emissions across Bracknell Forest



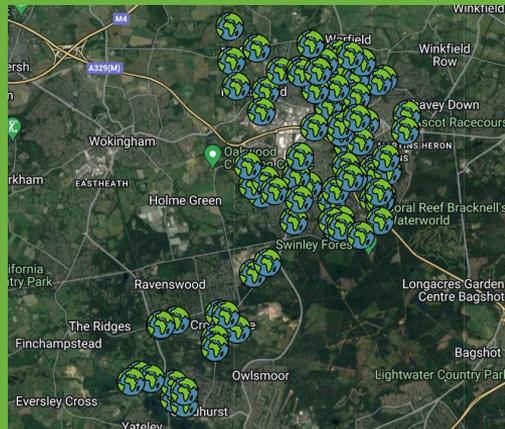
■ Gas 70.13% ■ Electricity 27.50% ■ Other fuels 2.37%

- Advice and support on energy efficiency at home including warm safe and well Public Health funding The scheme offers up to 50% of funds towards home energy efficiency improvements.
- Warm home discount scheme, Winter fuel payment and Cold weather payment
- Boiler upgrade scheme and Flexible home improvement loans.
- Energy supplier grants and schemes – British Gas Energy Trust, EDF Energy Customer Support Fund, Octopus Assist fund, OVO energy fund.
- DIY energy saving tips

What we're doing... Transport

The transport sector is one of the highest contributors to local carbon emissions and is also one of the sectors with the highest rate of inflation. In Bracknell Forest alone, transport makes up 35% of the borough's total greenhouse gas emissions.

- Love to Ride and Eco Rewards are free active travel sign up platforms which reward sustainable travel choices.
- Signposting towards map of electric charging points for electric cars in UK which can be filtered to free to use stations (e.g. Waitrose and Tesco).
- Currently installing 32 additional EV charging points at local neighbourhood hubs.
- Encouraging our residents to consider alternative methods of travel with active commuting and flexible working policies



BRACKNELL FOREST ALL TIME STATS



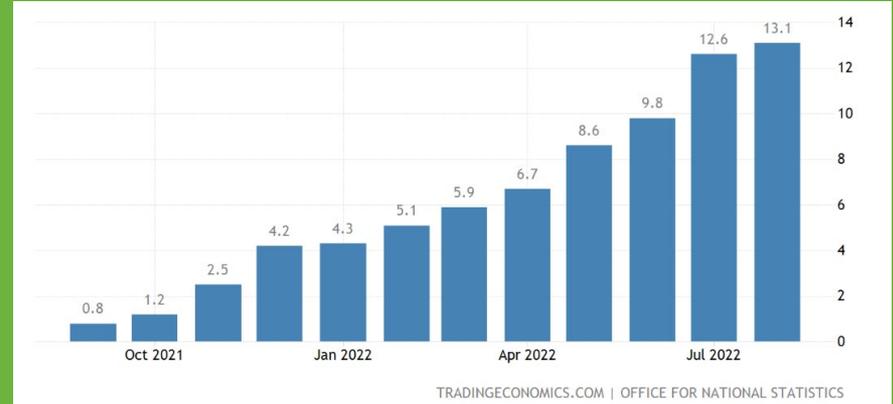
**Bracknell
Forest
Council**

Above: Left: Love to Ride stats
Left: Map of Eco Rewards tag locations around Bracknell Forest and Eco rewards QR example

What we're doing... 🍌 Food 🍌

The way food contributes to climate change is wide ranging – production and processing of food, food delivery miles, packaging, storage and preparation, and food waste.

- We are developing a climate change 'daily tips' to encourage behaviour change and help save our residents money.
 - Tips include; downloading apps such Olio and Too Good to Go and measuring food out to reduce waste.
 - Love food hate waste
- Successful food waste bin scheme across the borough.



Graph illustrating the inflation rate of food in the UK from September 2021 to August 2022.

Encouraging our residents at home

Food, energy and transport are intersectional themes within both **climate change** and the **cost of living crisis**. BFC comms and marketing are helping to encourage individual actions as some of the most effective ways to tackle rising emissions that can also impact rising costs too.

Food

Freeze food that is approaching its best by date – this allows it to last longer.

Meal planning – allows you to only buy what is needed.

More sustainable eating habits – consuming less red meat and more seasonal/local produce.

Energy

The Energy Trust have a free home energy check tool to help you understand your utility bill.

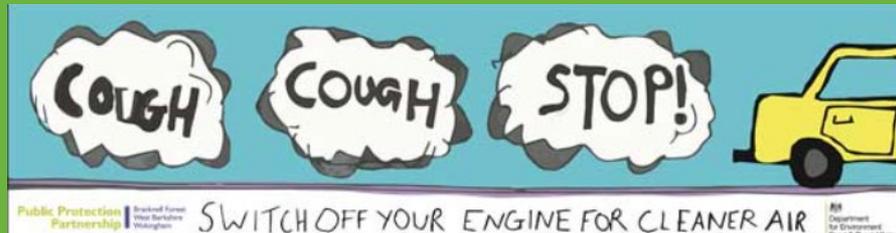
Get in touch with your energy provider.

Request an energy “smart” meter so you can keep track of your usage.

Transport

Check Petrol Prices to find the cheapest petrol near you. Empty the boot of car/ carry only what needed.

Turn off your engine when stationary.



Final points

Successful

£100k to increase publicly accessible EV charging provisions in the borough (supports EV ownership / move away from costlier diesel/petrol fuels)

£160k from Dept of Transport to promote active travel

£900k Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1A funding improving energy efficiency within hard to heat homes

Unsuccessful

£500k Public Sector Housing decarbonisation (joint bid supporting social housing provider Silva Homes) to promote energy efficiency measures in hard to heat homes

£1.3M Sustainable Warmth bid to implement energy efficiency measures in hard to heat homes.