

Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030

Delivery Plan: January 2021

The Climate Change Strategy sets out five key commitments to achieve our ambitious vision. The Strategy also states that we shall demonstrate leadership across all commitments whilst also enabling and inspiring others in our county to take action against climate change.

This document sets out a summary of the priority actions the County Council is taking over the next two years.

Commitment: We will mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions

Leadership

- Adopt and begin work to deliver a Carbon Management Plan for the County Council to achieve Net Carbon Zero by 2030.
- Revise and promote our Business Travel Policy to reduce our overall business mileage, and the associated emissions.
- Increase the number and use of pool bikes and electric, or other ultra-low emission vehicles on the fleet.
- Seek and secure external funding, match contributions, and private sector investment to deliver renewable energy projects.
- Deliver a programme of corporate communications for all staff on climate change activity and how they can get involved.
- Become a Carbon Literate certified organisation.

Enable and inspire others

- Enable publicly accessible EV chargepoints for residents of West Sussex.
- Define how we will enable the decarbonisation of commercial transport.
- Increase renewable heating solutions to tenants of social housing.
- Provide a domestic solar and battery solution for West Sussex residents.
- Promote and encourage renewable energy solutions on Business Parks in the county.
- Develop a Solar PV group purchasing scheme for local homeowners to purchase low cost solar.
- Support and enable E.Y.E (Eco Young and Engaged) Project in delivery of environmental education for schools

Commitment: We will adapt and be resilient to a changing climate

Leadership

- Increase the resilience of our highway network.
- Understand the profile of risk posed to West Sussex by climate change and take appropriate action to protect our operation and services.
- Publish a new county-wide Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2026.
- Develop and deliver a Tree Strategy for the County.

Enable and inspire others

- Use our organisations' climate change profile to shape our work with communities and businesses to reduce their risks.
- Support the Sussex Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities in their ambition to realise the carbon storage opportunity of restored kelp forest.
- Support community groups and residents to lead on projects to enhance their local green spaces.
- Support the Sussex Local Nature Partnership in their ambition to take forward a Natural Capital Investment Approach.

Commitment: We will source and use resources sustainably

Leadership

- Seek to make the reduction in print seen during Covid 19 working arrangements business as usual.
- Explore opportunities for reuse of displaced / surplus IT equipment.
- Maximise the recycling opportunities from our own buildings.
- Use better oversight of our water use to target and deliver efficiency measures.
- Reduce further our use of single use plastics.
- Launch and ensure a Social Value Framework and Indicator set is widely used across in all procurements the organisation.

Enable and inspire others

- Continue to promote and support Refill across West Sussex.
- Promote local and seasonal food

Commitment: We will support and grow our local green economy

Leadership

- Explore and seek to utilise collaborative funding mechanisms (for example, community municipal schemes) that can support the scope and pace of work we deliver.

Enable and inspire others

- Research and identify ways to provide information and guidance to local businesses on increasing their resilience to climate change.
- Work with partners to agree a plan for green tourism.
- Work in partnership to seek to benefit from any Nature Capital funding available through Coast to Capital LEP.
- Seek to secure potential funding to benefit the green economy. This includes through the hot house programme, the Research and Innovation Sussex Excellence (RISE) project and the Lo Case project.

Commitment: We will transform how we work

Leadership

- Ensure all decision reports clearly capture and show any climate change impacts.
- All relevant new plans and strategies will include climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation indicators.
- Understand the need and develop a suitable suite of climate, carbon and sustainability training programmes, accessible to all staff and members.

Enable and Inspire

- Work with partners and communities to build and deliver an engagement plan that encourages individuals and communities to act to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- We will liaise with other public sector bodies for collective lobbying to enable a clear voice to be heard
- Share best practice and evidence to strengthen local climate change planning policies, including championing a Health in All policies approach.