

Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2020 - 2025

Action Plan

Updated: 04/06/2021

Level of control	Related Priority Area	Action Area	Action	Mitigation	Adaptation	Natural Capital
TARGET 1: To reduce the Council's organisational net carbon footprint for scopes 1 and 2 from 1979.28 tonnes per annum in 2018-19 by 50% by 2023.						
TARGET 2: All Council Directorates to implement measures to ensure their services are adapted to climate change in line with the National Adaptation Programme recommendations						
TARGET 3: Deliver 20% biodiversity net gain across all Council property, land projects and wildlife sites						
01 ORGANISATION	MITIGATION: Energy Efficient, low carbon buildings ADAPTATION: Resilience of our services and supporting vulnerable people NATURAL CAPITAL: Green spaces, habitats and land management, Water management	Buildings and utilities	Continue to purchase 100% green electricity for all buildings and street lighting under County Council control.	✓	–	–
			Reduce the use of the electricity Transmission and distribution network through solar photovoltaic (PV) generation on our assets.	✓	–	–
			Increase energy efficiency standards for existing buildings and develop a programme of improvements using 'invest to save' principles to reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2023.	✓	–	–
			Implement plan of property retrofitting to all buildings owned and occupied by the Council - aiming to be fossil fuel free (using renewable heating sources instead of gas or oil) by 2025.	✓	–	–
			Ensure all new Council buildings, extensions and retrofits are designed to the highest energy efficiency standards, incorporating renewable generation where feasible and Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoint provision. Assessment of all buildings and implementation plan in place by 2023.	✓	–	–
			Improve measurement of refrigerant gases leakage, and replacement of air conditioning equipment with newer models that use gases with lower global warming potential and have lower leakage rates	✓	–	–
			Ensure all new buildings, extensions and retrofits are designed to incorporate measures to boost resilience to severe weather such as investing in new heat resistant /reflective materials, measures to enable staff to cope with extreme heat such as additional shading, and improved drainage design. Assessment of all buildings and implementation plan in place by 2023.	–	✓	–
			Audit properties and maintenance plans to identify opportunities and deliver enhancement to CCC's natural capital (e.g. enhancement of soft landscape for biodiversity)	✓	✓	✓
			Ensure all new buildings, extensions and retrofits are designed to incorporate measures to deliver environmental and biodiversity net gain including management plans, for example appropriate vegetation planting and sustainable drainage systems	–	✓	✓
			Ensure all new buildings are adapted to water scarcity through the use of water saving measures (e.g. rainwater harvesting, greywater harvesting). Assessment of all buildings and implementation plan in place by 2023.	–	✓	✓
			Ensure all buildings supporting important wildlife (e.g. bat roosts) have positive ecological management plans for their wildlife interest	–	–	✓
			All buildings to have water saving devices	–	✓	✓
			New buildings to consider greywater reuse and include where possible	–	✓	–
	Develop business continuity plans for sites and public buildings that will be subject to unacceptable increases in flood risk or sea level rise. Plan of potential locations in place by 2023.	–	✓	–		
	MITIGATION: Low Carbon Transport ADAPTATION: Flood risk NATURAL CAPITAL: Green space, habitat and land management	Transport	Investigate opportunities for zero or low emission highways, libraries and other fleet vehicles, including cargobikes	✓	–	–
			Implement replacement of all pool cars and hire cars and vans to only use electric vehicles - aim to complete by 2025.	✓	–	–
			Investigate adding eCargobikes to the pool of vehicles available	✓	–	–
			Scope all Council buildings with car parks for suitability for work-place electric vehicle chargepoints, with chargepoints installed at all suitable sites by 2025	✓	–	–
			Encourage staff to use public transport or cycle where possible to minimise other business travel carbon emissions	✓	–	–
			Review Social and education transport, including consideration for how children can be best accommodated in local schools to reduce the need for education transport	✓	–	–
Management of highways and other assets for climate change adaptation. E.g. Construct road surfaces with heat and flood resilient materials/designs to adapt to extreme heat and rainfall			–	✓	✓	
Management of highways to deliver environment net gains, including management of verges for biodiversity value & ensure all wildlife sites are in positive conservation management. Assessment of all highways assets and implementation plan in place by 2023. Fully implement by 2030.	–	–	✓			
Ensure all new transport schemes (e.g. cycleways, busways and roads) deliver environmental and biodiversity net gain. Assessment of all highways assets and implementation plan in place by 2023. Fully implement by 2030.	–	✓	✓			
ADAPTATION: Resilience of our services and supporting vulnerable people	Services	Through our Public Health, Social Care and Emergency Planning recovery functions, find ways to help manage the impacts on vulnerable people of severe weather or temperatures, including care homes, to prevent the vulnerable in our communities becoming more susceptible to the impacts of climate change.	–	✓	–	

	MITIGATION: Afforestation and Land Use. NATURAL CAPITAL: Green space, habitats and land management	Farm Estate and other Land assets	Management of county council land to deliver environment and biodiversity net gains (e.g. management for wildlife, tree planting and flood storage) to double land for nature by 2030.	✓	–	✓
			Develop a Tree Strategy for the council's land assets to scope capacity for tree planting and appropriate species mosaic.	✓	✓	✓
			All Council services scope their natural capital assets to deliver environmental and biodiversity net gain	–	–	✓
			Ensure all council owned wildlife sites (Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest) are in positive conservation management (e.g. surveyed every 5 years and managed for the benefit of their biodiversity interest) - complete by 2030	–	–	✓
	NATURAL CAPITAL: All	Waste	Develop management and restoration plans for closed landfill sites to create natural habitats	–	✓	✓
			Work with the waste industry to identify disposal options for alternative to single use plastics	–	–	✓
	All	Financing change	Reform the annual budget planning process to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and to support wider decarbonisation of service delivery and the communities we support.	✓	✓	✓
			Provide financing solutions for 'climate change mitigation, adaptation and natural capital'	✓	✓	✓
	All	Organisational learning	Develop compulsory training courses for all staff and training workshops for Members on climate change mitigation, adaptive measures and key environmental policies (e.g. NERC Act - to conserve biodiversity). Target 100% of staff trained by 2023.	✓	✓	✓
			Establish a group of Climate Champions to pilot Carbon Literacy training (https://carbonliteracy.com/) and Natural Capital Protocol decision making framework (https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NCC_Protocol_WEB_2016-07-12-1.pdf) to test these approaches for improved environmental decision making	✓	✓	✓
All committee paper templates to be updated to incorporate a requirement for officer clearance of implications of climate change impacts, carbon footprints and adaptation and environmental impacts, to help inform decision making			✓	✓	✓	
Identify mechanisms to improve the data provision for carbon footprinting, such that all data relevant to scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions is accurately measured and collected			✓	–	–	
TARGET 4: To reduce the Council's scope 3 emissions by 50.4% by 2030 (subject to review whilst data collection methods for unknown emissions are set up during 2020/2021 to get a better understanding of total tonnes of CO₂e)						
02 PROCURED SERVICES	MITIGATION: All	Purchased goods and services	Work with Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) to develop a methodology for calculating the carbon footprint for indirect carbon emissions (scope 3) (estimated 200,000 tonnes CO ₂ e)	✓	–	–
			Work with finance and services to improve data collection to inform the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts	✓	–	✓
	MITIGATION: All	Construction - use of materials	Apply lifecycle analysis to the purchasing of construction goods and services to ensure minimisation of carbon emissions and waste (Please note: calculation currently unknown for construction materials but likely to be significant)	✓	–	✓
	MITIGATION: Waste management	Waste Disposal	Review disposal and treatment mechanisms for waste to identify solutions and their implementation that reduce carbon emissions, support circular economy principles and reduce plastic pollution, in line with the contract timescales. The monitoring and measuring of these reductions will also be required.	✓	–	✓
	MITIGATION: Energy Efficient, Low Carbon buildings NATURAL CAPITAL: Green spaces, habitats and land management	Work with schools	Support maintained schools to retrofit their buildings to improve energy efficiency, offering finance mechanisms to support schools to choose to make these improvements.	✓	–	–
			Lifecycle heating and hot water replacements in schools to be fitted with low carbon solutions, offering energy performance contracts and heat agreements for schools to support this change	✓	–	–
			Encourage all schools to purchase 100% renewable electricity	✓	–	–
			Support maintained schools to enhance and manage their sites for natural capital, such as SuDS and biodiversity enhancement	–	–	✓
			Work with schools to develop a programme of education, helping schools deliver key messages to children on climate change, and what children (and their families) can do to help.	✓	✓	✓
			Work with schools to advise and assist them with planting trees on their sites	✓	✓	✓
All	Update Procurement processes	100% of renewals of existing tenancies and contracts include carbon reduction targets	✓	–	–	
		100% of all new procurements include carbon reduction, adaptation and environmental solutions (including single use plastic reductions)	✓	✓	✓	
		Develop training for procurement advisors on climate change, carbon footprint, adaptation and the environment to build awareness and the important role of procurement supporting change	✓	✓	✓	
		Update procurement guidance and standard contractual terms to include climate change impacts, mandatory carbon reporting and reporting environmental net gain	✓	✓	✓	
		Monitor compliance for climate change and carbon reporting for all new contracts commissioned by the Council and the reasons for any exception requests	✓	–	–	
		Commissioning managers to identify key review points for existing contracts and to work with existing contractors to prepare them for carbon and environmental reporting (e.g. biodiversity net gain and reduction of single use plastics)	✓	✓	✓	
		Update procurement guidance to favour use of low carbon transport (including cargobikes) over other vehicles when preparing and awarding contracts	✓	–	–	

03 COUNCIL POLICY AND STRATEGY			Monitor the potential impact on service procurements resulting from mandatory inclusion of carbon and environmental impacts into the evaluation of contracts.	✓	–	✓	
	MITIGATION: Afforestation and Land Use, Energy efficient, low carbon buildings NATURAL CAPITAL: Green spaces, habitats and land management	Farm tenants	Farm tenancy renewals to require (or where appropriate include) encouragement for carbon reduction measures, adaptation measures (i.e. water reservoirs to use in drought) and positive management of wildlife interest as part of the tenancy arrangements (current estimated baseline: 14585 tonnes CO2e)	✓	✓	✓	
			Homes on farm tenancies to be upgraded from oil or gas to low carbon heating solutions	✓	✓	✓	
	MITIGATION: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings	Properties let to commercial tenants	Develop business models to upgrade commercial properties and to share in the energy reductions with commercial tenants	✓	–	–	
	TARGET 5: 100% of Council strategies include policies that tackle Climate Change and natural capital enhancement by 2023						
	All	Strategy development and updates	For each Council strategy, identify contributions to both the organisational and wider Cambridgeshire carbon footprints, the wider Climate Change and environmental impacts	✓	✓	✓	
			Work with staff, Members, partners and service users to identify how best to manage Climate Change and environmental impacts on sector strategies e.g. highways, rural estate, health	✓	✓	✓	
			Manage the Council's own estate better for biodiversity and to create new habitats for storing carbon e.g. woodland	✓	✓	✓	
			Continue to designate and support non-designated heritage assets, many of which can be managed to create a better environment for residents and for heritage itself.	–	✓	✓	
			Design effective plans and climate change risk / adaptation strategies across all the Council's statutory and discretionary services.	–	✓	–	
Apply circular economy principles to our woodland and waste management e.g. using traditional woodland management techniques and the waste generated for local use			✓	✓	✓		
Identify opportunities on County Council assets to trial new technologies, including electrolysis of hydrogen using solar PV and carbon capture and storage mechanisms			✓	–	–		
ADAPTATION: Flood risk, water availability, Green and blue infrastructure development NATURAL CAPITAL: Green spaces, habitats and land management	Planning policy and advice	Update county-wide Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in conjunction with LPAs to reflect the evolution of national and local planning policies and the need for adaptive measures as explained in the new national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	✓	✓	–		
		Build county evidence base to support the development of new policy aiming for a target of 20% biodiversity net gain	–	–	✓		
All	Monitoring and measurement of change	Annual carbon footprint calculations to be published to demonstrate progress	✓	–	–		
		Measure progress delivering 20% biodiversity net gain across the Council's estate / land management	–	–	✓		
		Set baseline carbon and environmental indicators for every Council strategy and mechanisms to measure and collect data	✓	–	✓		
All	Improving the Council's evidence base for policy making	Continue to collaborate with the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) programme to identify key climate change and environmental challenges for young researchers to provide evidence to inform policy making	✓	✓	✓		
All	Independent advice and guidance to inform policy making	Review outcomes from Citizen Assemblies and consultations run by the County, GCP, CPCA and Local Authority partners on issues relating to climate change and environment and use these findings to inform the Council's policy making or lobbying of government and other agencies	✓	✓	✓		
		Work with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough service providers on 'Think Communities' to support training and development of our communities on Climate Change and its impacts to build community resilience	✓	✓	✓		
TARGET 6: To sign up to a shared target with partners and the community by 2023 to deliver 50.4% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030 in tonnes/CO2 per annum for Cambridgeshire based on 2018 baseline							
MITIGATION: Waste management	Waste Management	Make use of potential waste streams e.g. highways verge harvesting, to improve biodiversity net gain	✓	–	✓		
		Work with developers to influence waste collection infrastructure and collection options for new developments.	✓	–	–		
		Work with Cambridgeshire District and City councils to develop more sustainable waste management practices.	✓	–	–		
		Work with the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities on circular economy principles for waste management and economic development. In particular Cambridgeshire's Waste to be managed within County.	✓	–	✓		

04 PARTNER STRATEGIES

All	Local Growth Plans	Support Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority Partners to develop local growth plans that include policies to reduce carbon emissions in line with agreed government and local targets, incorporate adaptive measures to the changing climate and deliver positive environmental and biodiversity net gain for green spaces. biodiversity metric established and being used by 2023	✓	✓	✓
		Work with National government, District Councils and developers to push towards 100% of new housing developments delivering climate change mitigation technologies, adaptation design and biodiversity net gain	✓	✓	✓
		Collaborate with the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Combined Authority on its non-statutory spatial plan to ensure energy, water and electrified transport infrastructure facilitates carbon emissions reductions, supports adaptation measures to climate change impacts and delivers 20% net gain	✓	✓	✓
		Update Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Green Infrastructure Strategy to reflect the Doubling Nature Vision	–	–	✓
MITIGATION: All	Health and Wellbeing	Collaborate with partners in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board and Sustainability and Transformation Partnership to support the reduction of the carbon footprint of health and care services.	✓	–	–
NATURAL CAPITAL: Air Pollution	Air Quality	Support new community designs that minimise air pollution both internally and externally to improve health outcomes			✓
		Work with partners to encourage commercial fleets – including buses and delivery vehicles in urban areas (where many of the air quality exceedances are) – to move to electric vehicles	✓	–	✓
		Tackle poor air quality around schools, using Regulation 3 applications for new Schools, and through developing a pilot for a “no car zone” around a Cambridge School.	✓	–	✓
		Work with partners to locate, seek funding for and plant (at suitable locations) new hedges and trees, particularly in areas around schools.	✓	–	✓
		Investigate the potential for technologically advanced “City Trees” or similar, as well as green walls in appropriate County locations.	✓	–	✓
		Reducing air pollution at source by lobbying government for improved initiatives and for grants to help us pilot imaginative projects	✓	–	✓
MITIGATION: Low Carbon Transport	Local Transport Planning	The council will work in partnership to achieve shift to public and active transport to reduce air pollution, through measures to promote walking, cycling and public transport use, utilising new approaches and technologies coming forward through new government plans and strategies.	✓		✓
		Collaborate with the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority on the carbon footprint of transport policy measures to reduce carbon emissions, improve climate change adaptation requirements for transport infrastructure, reduce air and other pollutants by 2050.	✓	✓	✓
		Reducing air pollution through more walking and cycling provision	✓	–	–
		- Continuing to improve the cycle way experience, throughout Cambridgeshire.	✓	–	–
		Reducing air pollution through electric vehicle infrastructure provision and low emission mass transit.	✓	–	✓
		Improving the alternative to the private motor car, in line with approaches coming forward in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan: - Working with the Mayor and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver the CAM metro. - Continuing to expand the transport hub network, where you can leave your car and get on public transport. - Working with partners to sizeably increase the access to railways offer currently available.	✓	–	–
		100% of new transport projects deliver climate change mitigation, adaptation design and biodiversity net gain	✓	✓	✓
Research options for 'clean hydrogen fuelling' for heavy/large vehicles	✓	–	–		
MITIGATION: Low Carbon Transport	Greater Cambridge City Deal	Work with the DfT and local public bodies to develop and promote policies to ensure public transport and active transport is more competitive and attractive than the private car	✓	–	–
		Working with GCP to ensure our communities are aware of options to travel sustainably and encouraged to take these up.	✓	–	✓
		Working with the GCP to deliver new sustainable transport infrastructure to improve journeys made by public transport, walking and cycling	✓	–	✓
MITIGATION: All	Government strategies	Support the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver infrastructure to support the decarbonisation of housing, jobs and transport through collaborations on electricity infrastructure upgrades, electric vehicle charging facilities, low carbon heating solutions and net gain.	✓	–	✓
		Work in partnership with the public and private sector to design, develop and deliver new infrastructure across the Cambridge-Oxford ARC that supports new communities to live net -zero carbon lifestyles.	✓	–	–
		Develop Cambridgeshire case studies and pilot projects that offer solutions and evidence to inform Government clean growth targets, transport decarbonisation ambitions and policy challenges	✓	–	–
		Work with the Education Funding Agency and Academy schools to continue to offer finance solutions for energy retrofitting opportunities to support academies to improve energy efficiency and generate renewable energy	✓	–	–
ADAPTATION:		Work with the Local Resilience Forum to ensure climate change impacts are included on its risk register including specific response measures for key groups	✓	✓	–
		As Lead Flood Authority, working in partnership with the Environment Agency and other partners, to secure sufficient storage and flood risk management capacity for new and existing buildings and assets on the basis that weather impacts will increase due to human-made climate change	–	✓	–
		Support the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Cambridge Water to plan for the next 100 years water availability to support Cambridgeshire’s people, businesses and biodiversity. For example, plan for water neutrality, significant water reductions in existing assets and for new reservoirs that can create leisure and biodiversity benefits.	–	✓	✓

Resilient highways and infrastructure, Flood risk, Water availability	Water Management	Work with Natural England, the NFU, CLA, our tenant farmers and other partners to support measures to improve data collection, soil improvement, research, environmental, social and economic adaptation and reduction of the carbon footprint for our Fen peat landscapes	✓	✓	✓
		Work with partners to understand how the Oxcam Growth Arc Water Cycle Study can best manage water resources, quality and flood risk across the Great Ouse catchment and into Cambridgeshire.		✓	✓
		Work with the Environment Agency to introduce sea level rise (SLR) resilient measures to protect parts of Cambridgeshire at risk	–	✓	–
		Work with partners to develop Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects to allow catchment-wide adaptation to flooding and sea level rise	–	✓	–
		Work with the County's main water suppliers to deliver higher resilience to droughts	–	✓	–
TARGET 7: Deliver Government's net zero-carbon target for Cambridgeshire by 2050					
MITIGATION: All, ADAPTATION: All	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Commission	Work with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission to provide independent advice on setting and meeting carbon budgets and preparing for climate change	✓	✓	–
All	Communities	Ensure that all communities are able to access information that allows them to understand how they will be impacted by climate change and any adaptive measures they need to take to address this	–	✓	–
		Establish a County Council Climate Change website with a range of education and awareness materials on climate change action, including signposting to existing materials. Use this website as a focal point to keep the public and other organisations aware of the County's climate work and progress on delivering the Strategy.	✓	✓	✓
		Use our Libraries as a focal point of information provision on climate change and environmental matters.	✓	✓	✓
		Signpost communities to funding opportunities to support climate change action e.g. National Lottery climate change fund	✓	✓	–
MITIGATION: All, NATURAL CAPITAL: Green spaces, habitats and land management	Farming	Collaborate with the National Farmer's Union and others (e.g. agri-tech industry) on ideas and opportunities for carbon, fertiliser and pesticide reductions	✓	–	✓
MITIGATION: Peatland, NATURAL CAPITAL: Peatland	Commercial and Industrial	Work with Agritech businesses, the Council's rural estate tenants, Cambridgeshire Acre, National Trust and other partners to establish Cambridgeshire as an international model for peatland management to reduce carbon emissions, enhance biodiversity and new economic compensation models . See section 03, line 47	✓	–	✓
MITIGATION: Energy Efficient, Low Carbon Buildings	Domestic Housing	Building on work with the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, support other oil based communities to find low carbon heating and hot water solutions to reduce carbon footprints and tackle fuel poverty	✓	–	–
		Facilitate residential access to reduced cost renewable energy technology through collective purchasing schemes, such as solar PV with iChoosr	✓	–	–
		Encourage residents to reduce water waste through installing technologies that minimise water use and recycle it	✓	✓	–
		Support communities to develop carbon footprints and encourage neighbourhood plans to include space for energy infrastructure and the inclusion of natural capital solutions such as hedge laying for carbon storage.	✓	–	✓
		Develop property level demonstrator locations to educate and encourage residents to invest in adaptation and mitigation technologies	✓	✓	–
MITIGATION: Waste management	Waste	Encourage residents and businesses to minimise food and other waste to reduce carbon emissions e.g. foodcycle, foodhub	✓	–	–
		Encourage residents to repurpose and recycle to avoid the need to buy from new e.g. access or set up repair cafes	✓	–	–
		To promote waste awareness & encourage sustainable approaches to waste to local residents and businesses	✓	–	–
MITIGATION: Low carbonTransport	Transport	Provide more active travel choices for individuals through the provision of supportive infrastructure in line with DfT decarbonisation of transport ambitions	✓	–	–
		Develop a wider range of alternatives to the car, for example encourage initiatives that promote cargobikes within the wider community.	✓	–	–
		Provide educational guides on how best to manage and charge your EV to overcome perceptions of running out of power	✓	–	–
		Work with District and City Councils, our communities, and businesses to identify suitable locations and deliver EV charging infrastructure to support both urban and rural needs	✓	✓	–
ADAPTATION: Green and Blue Infrastructure	Land use change	Work with the Local Nature Partnership on the 'Doubling Nature' project and Future Parks Project, and promote the benefits of blue/green infrastructure for their adaptation benefits to communities	–	✓	✓