



Our Climate Change Action Plan – Strategic Priorities

1. Organisational Emissions

- Use net zero carbon energy across our Council-owned buildings, and over the longer term look to transition to net-zero carbon buildings. We will also reduce our organisational waste to a minimum.
- All council-owned vehicles to be zero carbon by 2030 or sooner.
- Utilise our influence across our supply chain, through procurement practices, to drive significant carbon emission reductions in the operations of our suppliers and partners.
- Enable Council staff and Councillors to support reducing our organisational emissions.

2. Transport and Air Quality

- Taking forward our Place-based approach to development that creates well-connect communities close to high quality places and spaces which reduces the need for private vehicles.
- Promote and encourage a shift away from private transport vehicles to an increased uptake of accessible public and active transport (walking and cycling).
- Create an innovative policy environment, supported by adequate funding, that encourages the uptake of zero emission vehicles amongst partners and residents for journeys that cannot be made on foot, by bicycle or public transport.

3. Energy Generation

- Expand renewable energy generation capacity across the District.
- Develop localised smart energy systems that focus on providing low carbon energy to local businesses and residents, whilst reducing costs.

4. Housing, Buildings, Planning and Infrastructure

- Seek and support the retrofit of existing residential homes and commercial buildings to more demanding energy efficiency standards.
- Review and update local planning policy frameworks, as well as seeking a stronger National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), to ensure our planning policies support our commitment to climate change. For example: facilitating the delivery of low-carbon, energy efficient new residential development that produces a net-gain in biodiversity, improves air quality, and produces infrastructure that enables the delivery of wider ambitions on local renewable energy generation, vehicle electrification, and is sustainably located to allow safe and easy access for residents to existing services and transport hubs.
- Work with stakeholders to develop a systems-based approach to development and infrastructure that considers the whole-life cycle of construction including water consumption and promotes the integration of green infrastructure for climate change adaptation.

5. Waste, Resources and Circular Economy

- Work with other government authorities and businesses to strengthen producer responsibility and practical, innovative and effective methods guidance for consumers to reduce waste generated, particularly food.
- Use education and best practice sharing to drive significant behaviour change within the District and the adoption of more sustainable purchasing practices.
- Where waste is produced, we will work with partners to develop practical, innovative and effective methods for increasing reuse and recycling rates. We will also evaluate the current carbon impact of recycling collection and disposal practices so that their impact can be lessened e.g. electrification of vehicles.



6. Land Use and Food Systems

- Working with the agricultural industries, partners and research groups to promote sustainable localised food systems within the District.
- Increase the potential of the district's land, biodiversity, current and future woodland to sequester and capture carbon, and to strengthen resilience to climate change.
- Greater learning and sharing of approaches to reduce carbon in our food consumption patterns through our procurement practices and within our communities.

7. Industry and Green Economy

- Utilise digital technology and develop relevant skills amongst our workforce to support the creation of green technologies, jobs and products in the District.
- Pursue energy efficiency improvements in local industry and businesses that reduce consumption and decarbonise energy usage.

8. Funding, Engagement & Other Actions

- Pro-actively seek funding for climate change initiatives.
- Support climate friendly behaviour change.
- Explore all areas that the Council can create positive impacts on climate change.

9. Adaption

- We will work with partners, employees, and our supply chain to build the resilience of our estate(s) to climate change impacts, in particular flooding and extreme heat.
- Take a proactive approach to working with partners in planning to strengthen the integration of climate change adaptation and holistic thinking into development proposals to build long-term resilience to climate change.

Our Climate Change Action Plan

April 2021 – March 2030¹

Action Priorities

1 – High	Red	action (following scoping) anticipated to substantially reduce carbon emissions
2 – Medium	Amber	action (following scoping) anticipated to moderately reduce carbon emissions
3 – Low	Green	action (following scoping) anticipated to result in minor reduction in carbon emissions
Mitigation		action anticipated to help adapt to future impacts of climate change
Offsetting		action anticipated to help offset carbon emissions

Please note: ‘Completed by’ timescales are initial estimates.

Category 1: Reducing emissions from the Council’s estate and operations

Initial Action	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Produce Council greenhouse gas emissions report to ensure we are effectively measuring and managing our emissions.	Organisational Emissions	Reduce, and effectively manage organisational emissions.	1	Mar 2021 (first iteration)
Switch the Council’s supply to a ‘green’ tariff that guarantees energy from renewable sources	Organisational Emissions	Reduce organisational emissions.	1	Mar 2022
Undertake a zero-carbon pathway and feasibility assessment for the Council Offices	Organisational Emissions	Reduce organisational emissions.	1	Mar 2021
Undertake a zero-carbon pathway and feasibility assessment for the Warren Lane Depot	Organisational Emissions	Reduce organisational emissions.	1	Mar 2022
Undertake a zero-carbon pathway and feasibility assessment for the Council’s housing stock	Organisational Emissions	Reduce organisational emissions.	1	Mar 2022

¹ Year 1 = date of plan approval to end March 2022, Year 2 = April 2022 – March 2023, Year 3 = April 2023 – March 2024 etc.

Initial Action	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Develop a business case for all Council vehicles to be powered by electric or other low carbon alternatives	Organisational Emissions	Reduce organisational emissions.	1	Jun 2024
Produce new procurement strategy which embodies social value climate change principles	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions. - Support behaviour change in value chain.	1	Mar 2021
Scope potential to enable residents/public to make voluntary contributions (£) to the Council's climate change projects	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- Enable a greater number of projects to take place over a shorter timescale. - Support behaviour change.	2	Mar 2022
Scope Council staff to use active travel or low-carbon transport to commute to work	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions. - Support behaviour change.	3	Mar 2022
Arrange staff and councillor climate change training	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions. - Support behaviour change.	3	July 2021
Scope reducing water consumption across the Council	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions.	3	Mar 2023
Scope reducing the volume of paper purchased across the Council	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions.	3	Mar 2023
Review the Council's financial investments to ascertain whether they support fossil fuel intensive industries	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- Reduce organisational emissions. - Support behaviour change. - Potential to increase Return On Investment.	3	July 2021
Scope the Council's organisational waste generated from all its activities (e.g. grounds maintenance & housing repairs)	Organisational Emissions	- Reduce organisational emissions.	3	Mar 2024
Scope emissions offsetting options for the Council (e.g. for IT cloud services)	Organisational Emissions	- Offset emissions that cannot effectively be reduced via current opportunities, hence reduce organisational emissions.	Offsetting	Mar 2025
Scope carbon sequestration opportunities in the District (inc. tree strategy & canopy survey)	Land Use & Food Systems	- Reduce carbon emissions in District.	Offsetting	Mar 2023

Initial Action	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
		- Increase biodiversity. - Improve District's air quality.		
Ensure our business continuity and emergency plans are robust from a climate change perspective	Adaption	- Increase Council's climate resilience.	Mitigation	Mar 2022

Category 2: How the Council can influence and encourage residents and businesses to reduce their emissions

Actions	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Scope feasibility of installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the District	Transport & Air Quality	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Improve District's air quality. - Support low-income/vulnerable - households or those who may not have access to private chargers. - Support behaviour change.	1	Mar 2021
Scope how the Council can support community energy schemes	Energy Generation	- Reduce fuel poverty in the District - Reduce carbon emissions in District.	2	Mar 2025
Produce climate change communications plan (e.g. Council website, single-use plastics, low carbon advertising, zero waste, AONBs)	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- Support behaviour change.	2	Mar 2021
Work with Southern Building Control and other Council teams to review implications of new government updates to building control, NPPF, Council planning polices, and other green building standards.	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Reduce carbon emissions in District.	2	Ongoing

Actions	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Explore working more closely with landlords to undertake energy efficiency improvements in their properties	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Reduce fuel poverty.	2	Mar 2022
Scope working with farmers to reduce their carbon footprint	Land Use & Food Systems	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Increase biodiversity.	2	Sep 2024
Scope how the Council can support upskilling the District's workforce in the green economy	Industry & Green Economy	- Support local economy. - Reduce carbon emissions in District.	2	Sep 2022
Scope options for how the Council can engage with young residents on climate change	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- Support behaviour change.	3	Sep 2021
Revise our taxi policies to encourage the uptake of EVs	Transport & Air Quality	- Improve District's air quality. - Support behaviour change. - Save operational costs (long-term).	3	Dec 2022
Scope possibilities for improving active travel in the District	Transport & Air Quality	- Improve District's air quality. - Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Improve users' health & wellbeing.	3	Dec 2023
Produce a Green and Blue infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document in line with Our Local Plan	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Support behaviour change.	3	Mar 2025
Evaluate use of business rates to drive more rapid adoption of energy efficiency upgrades and sustainable practices	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Support behaviour change.	3	Sep 2022
Audit recycling sites and ability for residents to recycle the 'unrecyclables' in the District	Waste, Resources and Circular Economy	- Reduce carbon emissions in District.	3	Dec 2025

Actions	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Explore implications of best practice policies that highlight the importance of food growing spaces (as per Open Space Strategy)	Land Use & Food Systems	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Support behaviour change. - Improve health and wellbeing.	3	Dec 2022
Scope how the Council can support schools to build climate change networks and install climate change infrastructure	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- Support behaviour change. - Reduce carbon emissions in District.	3	Dec 2025
Assess opening Tandridge Lottery and Community Fund to support climate change projects/good causes in the District	Funding, Engagement & Other Actions	- As per project. - Enable a greater number of projects to take place.	3	Mar 2021

Category 3: How we work with other agencies to collectively reduce the carbon footprint of Surrey

Actions	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
Work with Surrey County Council and Joint Waste Solutions to fully assess emissions from the County's / District's waste collection and processing	Waste, Resources and Circular Economy	- Reduce carbon emissions in District.	2	Mar 2022
Support the Surrey Air Alliance with their action plan	Transport & Air Quality	- Support behaviour change. - Improve District's air quality.	2	Ongoing
Scope installation of renewable energy generators in the District (e.g. battery storage, wind, solar) in the District	Energy Generation	- Support renewable energy production / distribution. - Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Support future EV fleet vehicles.	2	Mar 2023
Work with partners to support the installation of smart meters in the District and residents switching to 'green' energy tariffs	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Reduce carbon emissions in District. - Support behaviour change.	2	Sep 2023

Actions	Strategic Priority	Change Outcome	Action Priority	Completed by
		- Support national energy network to become more flexible and adapt to on-boarding more renewables.		
Scope working with the County's car club operator (or similar)	Transport & Air Quality	- Support behaviour change. - Improve District's air quality. - Reduce carbon emissions in District.	3	Sep 2025
Scope installation of urban 'greening' devices (e.g. air-purifying benches, green walls, green roofs)	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Improve District's air quality. - Reduce 'urban heat island' effect. - Increase biodiversity. - Storm weather mitigation. - Improve health and wellbeing. - Dust suppression. - Noise reduction. - Passive thermal insulation and weather protection for buildings.	3	Dec 2023
Work with partners to scope potential for low emission zones	Housing, Planning, Buildings & Infrastructure	- Improve District's air quality. - Support local economy by creating 'destinations'. - Increase biodiversity (e.g. pocket parks). - Encourage active travel.	3	Sep 2026
Pro-actively monitor UK Government policy re: hydrogen infrastructure	Energy Generation	- Support uptake of low-carbon alternatives in the District / nationally.	3	Ongoing
Work with partners to implement key flood alleviation schemes where possible	Adaption	- Increase District's climate resilience.	Mitigation	Ongoing