



The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Your ref:
Our ref: DW/jj
Date: 10 December 2020

Email: james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State

Climate change commitments

We are writing to you on behalf of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum (ESGF) and East Suffolk Council's Environment Task Group (ETG).

ESGF is a voluntary network of individuals, organisations, businesses and community groups, founded in 1996, in response to the Rio Earth Summit. Their vision is to work with the people of East Suffolk to improve our quality of life and living standards, whilst reducing our impact on the environment.

East Suffolk Council has a strong environmental vision and places the environmental agenda at the heart of all it seeks to do. In recognising the existence of the climate emergency, East Suffolk Council has committed to working towards carbon neutrality across our own estate and operations by 2030, as well as continuing to play a key role as a member of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership in making the whole county of Suffolk carbon neutral by that date.

In order for this to happen, it will be essential for all local councils to be provided with the correct legislative framework, systems and resources to make our vision a reality, and this will only happen with your help.

In particular, insofar as Defra is positioned to act, we want the Council to be able to continue to effectively collect the waste from approximately 250,000 residents of the district in the face of mounting waste arisings and rising expectations. To help the Council do this, we urge Defra to legislate for:

- Meaningful measures to address over-consumption of resources and the throwaway culture:

LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

- To help avoid waste at source, the implementation of Circular Economy principles, where waste is designed out, products are designed to be repairable, and built-in obsolescence is a thing of the past.
- Where waste cannot be avoided, producers to be incentivised through taxes to ensure that all single-use packaging uses materials that are easily recycled.
- Carbon ratings on all products to enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions.
- Urgent implementation of deposit return schemes on all single use glass and plastic bottles.
- Steps to improve recycling that shift the emphasis from quantity, to quality.

We also urge Defra to act to ensure that our land and coastline are managed in ways that are more sympathetic to nature. In particular, we urge Defra to legislate to:

- Control the use of pesticides more strictly and instead incentivise alternative methods of weed control.
- End the mining and sale of peat.
- Prioritise funding for sustainable methods of flood adaptation, such as floodplain meadows and saltmarshes.

We hope that this letter sets out our shared vision, and our suggestions for how we can work together to achieve this in a constructive way. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**CLlr James Mallinder | Chair
Environment Task Group**



Yours sincerely



**Jane Healey | Chair
East Suffolk Greenprint Forum**



Copies to:

The Rt Hon Therese Coffey	MP for Suffolk Coastal
Dr Daniel Poulter	MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
Peter Aldous	MP for Waveney