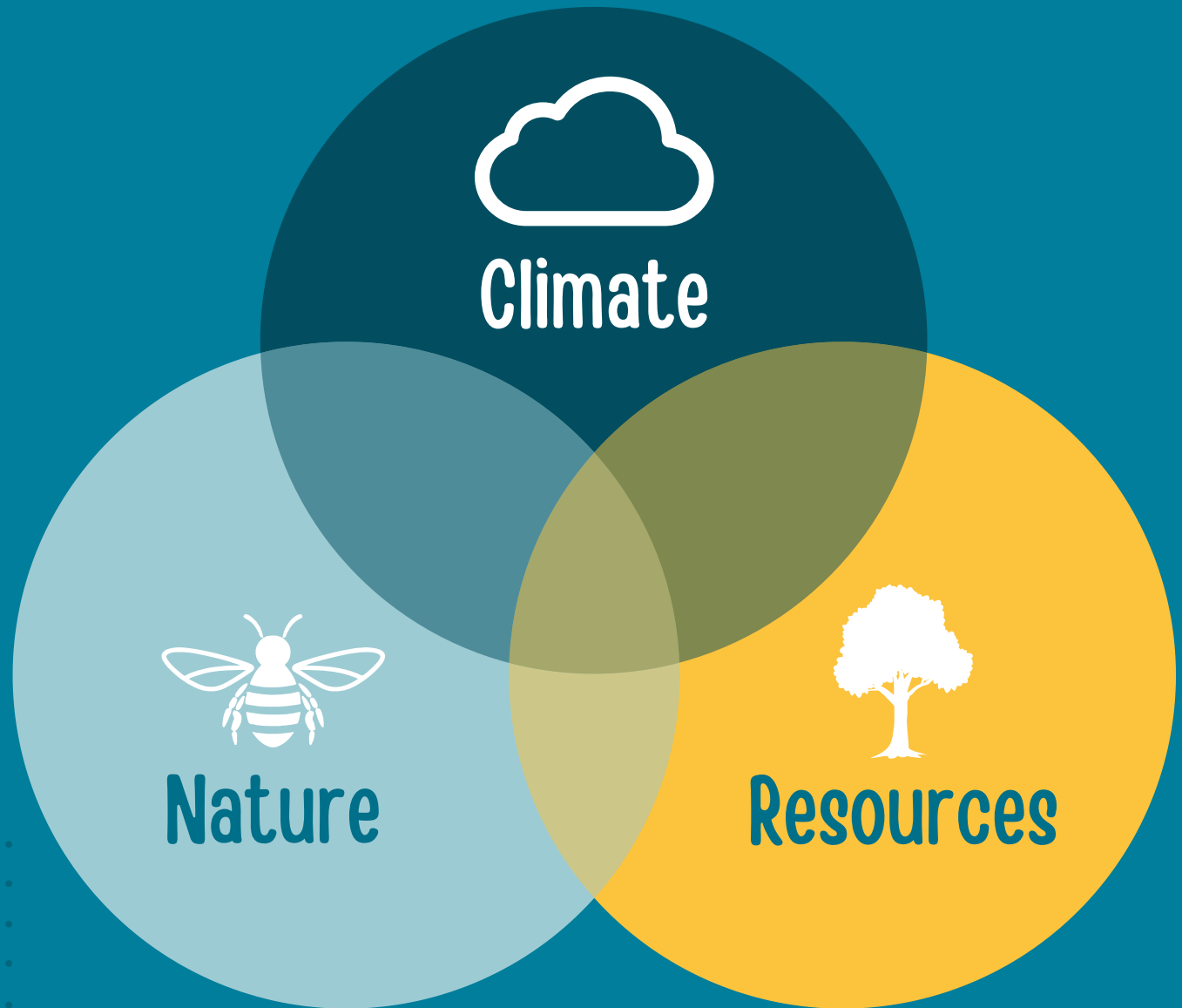


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STRATEGY



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL



“Delivering positive **climate, nature, and environmental** impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.”

Foreword



Councillor Sally Noble
Portfolio Holder
Environment

Nature isn't just scenery – it's our life support system, cleaning our air, growing our food, filtering our water and regulating our climate. However, the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Action to address our ecological emergency is essential and needed urgently. Residents across our district have told us that they want to give a voice to nature.

East Suffolk Council's 'Our Direction 2028' strategic plan does just that, placing the delivery 'Environmental Impact' at the heart of our work.

As a district council there are limits to what we can do alone. This means that working in partnership with our communities and organisations across the district and beyond is crucial to protecting and restoring our ecosystems and boosting biodiversity.

We are part of nature and unless it flourishes, we cannot flourish either.

This strategy shows how we are already working to restore the natural world to help build a healthy, thriving East Suffolk for our residents and for generations to come.



Councillor Tom Daly
Portfolio Holder
Energy & Climate Change

Tackling climate change is a big challenge that requires us to work closely with other local authorities, other organisations and of course our communities. However, there are many opportunities that this will unlock. These include improving air quality, reducing reliance on finite fossil fuel reserves and improving energy security.

In 2023 our administration declared a continued commitment to achieve net zero by 2030, going beyond our duty to help meet the nation's legally-binding 2050 target.

When we work in partnership with others we can learn from each other and find new solutions. This is already working well in Suffolk through our work with councils across the county to deliver the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. We will in the coming year, work toward promoting Community Energy across our district to enable our communities to take greater control of their energy carbon footprints as well as their energy bills.

Our work with national organisations is also very important, such as through the Local Government Association and when we engage with Government, National Grid and others on key topics affecting our communities, such as the energy NSIPs having such a huge impact on our coast.

There are multiplier benefits to changing the way we use and consume resources. We can all play our part and this administration is absolutely committed to delivering this strategy.

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1. How is East Suffolk Council Delivering Positive Environmental Impact?

Reaffirming our commitment to nature and addressing climate change

In November 2023, 'Our Direction 2028' - ESC's new strategic plan - was approved. The plan sets 'Environmental Impact' as a core focus with eight priority themes. These incorporate environmental sustainability across the entire plan.

'Our Direction 2028' also reaffirmed our commitment to become a net zero organisation by 2030. This means addressing the emissions that are produced by our assets, operations, and when we deliver services for our communities. We've worked hard to deliver this ambition - an example being through our fleet decarbonisation programme. We've also updated our policies and procedures (such as new planning documents and procurement strategy) to align with our commitments.

In February 2024, we declared a biodiversity and ecological emergency. This reaffirmed our commitment to protecting and restoring nature on behalf of our communities.

Mitigation of climate change is a key aim of the Council's two Local Plans, both of which contain policies on matters such as sustainable construction, sustainable transport, flood risk and coastal change.

The Council also has a significant role in the protection of the environment through our enforcement, protection and monitoring functions, such as through Planning and environmental protection. We incorporate the latest national guidance on responding to climate change in our approaches and the environment is always formally considered as part of Cabinet and Full Council decisions.



Embedding our approach

This strategy builds on the previous phases of delivery as part of the ESC strategic plan and previous Climate Action Framework. It summarizes our approach to tackling this challenge and how we are prioritising our current workstreams. Crucially, it also highlights how we have embedded this work in our organisation through delivery of our Service Plans and how we are working with multi-sector partners across Suffolk - and beyond. As a working document, it also highlights plans that are being drafted and activities planned for the future.

This strategy will continue to evolve as new information and data emerges, such as technical developments (e.g. green hydrogen) or new policies (e.g., devolution, national planning policy and guidance).

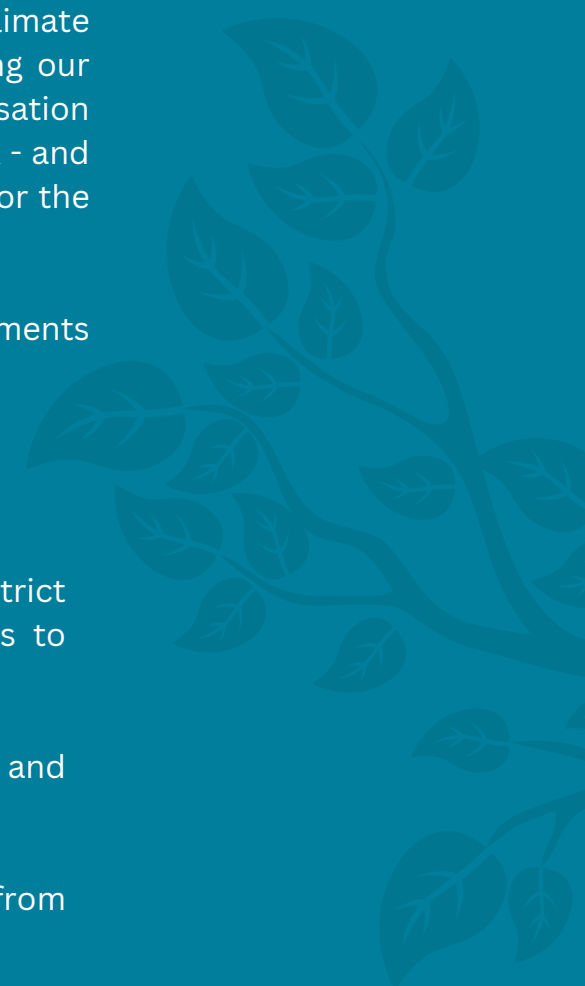
Cross-sector, cross-county collaboration

As an ambitious council - despite limits to the resources, funding and powers available to District Authorities - we are publicly committed to collaborate with other local and national organisations to urgently address the climate change and nature emergencies.

Examples include working to address important national issues such as low carbon transport and decarbonising private homes, plus the development of Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

East Suffolk Council supports the 2030 net zero ambition for Suffolk as a whole by tackling emissions from the wider sectors of transport, business, industry and households.

To do this we are an active partner in the delivery of the [Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan](#) - this includes helping households install energy reduction measures through the 'Warmer Homes' programme and supporting business to decarbonise.

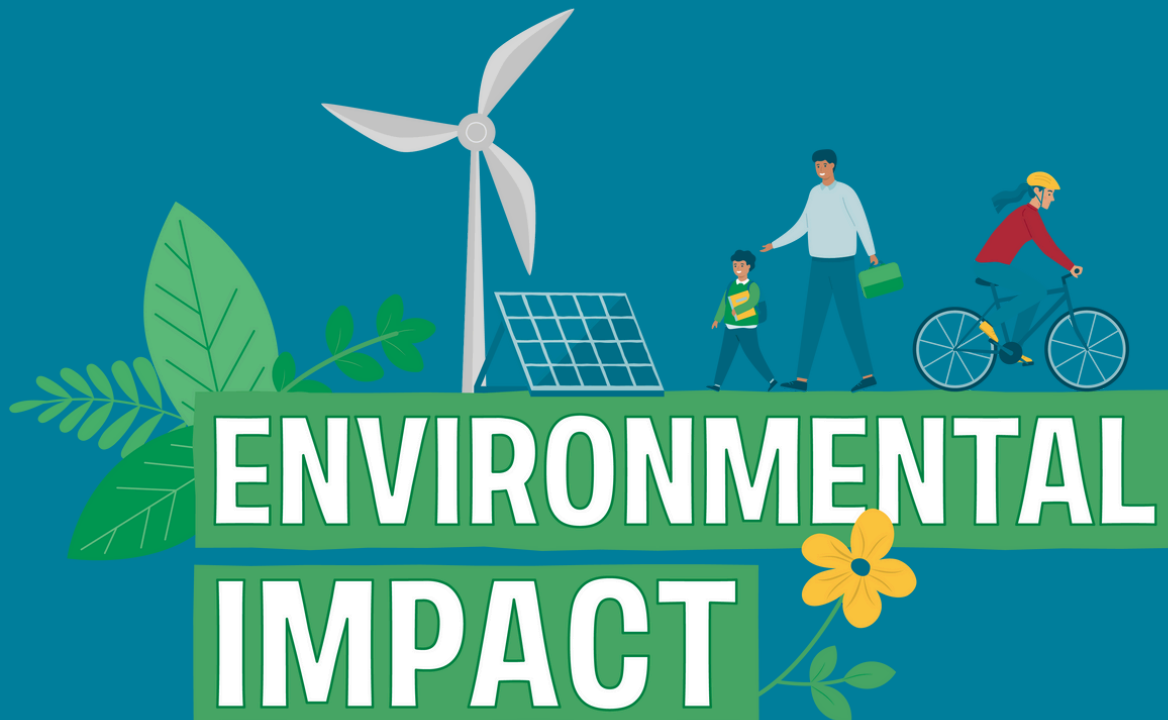


Delivering change

Our Direction 2028 is the 'guiding light' for our work, with progress governed by our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This work is monitored by the Member Environment Task Group and Environmental Impact Delivery Team.

East Suffolk Council **leads** projects where it has the powers, duties, funding and resources to do so. Where a broader response is required, we work with partners across Suffolk and beyond to **enable** other individuals and organisations to deliver action.

Our work is prioritised according to where we can make the greatest impact, and where we have the resources to deliver a measurable positive difference.



2. What is the Purpose of this Strategy?

The purpose of this strategy is to give an overview of:

- **What we've done:** Provide an overview of East Suffolk Council's response to the climate & nature emergencies so far.
- **What we're doing:** Highlight the projects, plans and policies that make up our environmental impact programme.
- **What we're going to do:** Map the way forward on delivering the eight environmental impact priorities.

What is the scope of this strategy?

This document is focussed on East Suffolk Council's work to deliver the eight Environmental Impact priorities. It also includes our wider work related to these core themes, such as addressing water pollution and the ESC air quality strategy. The scope is:

- a. Actions that are being delivered by ESC that make a positive, measurable difference in delivering the eight environmental impact priorities.**
- b. Projects being led by ESC delivering wider positive environmental impact across East Suffolk.**
- c. Work that is being delivered with partners to enable communities, businesses and other organisations in Suffolk to decarbonise and restore nature.**

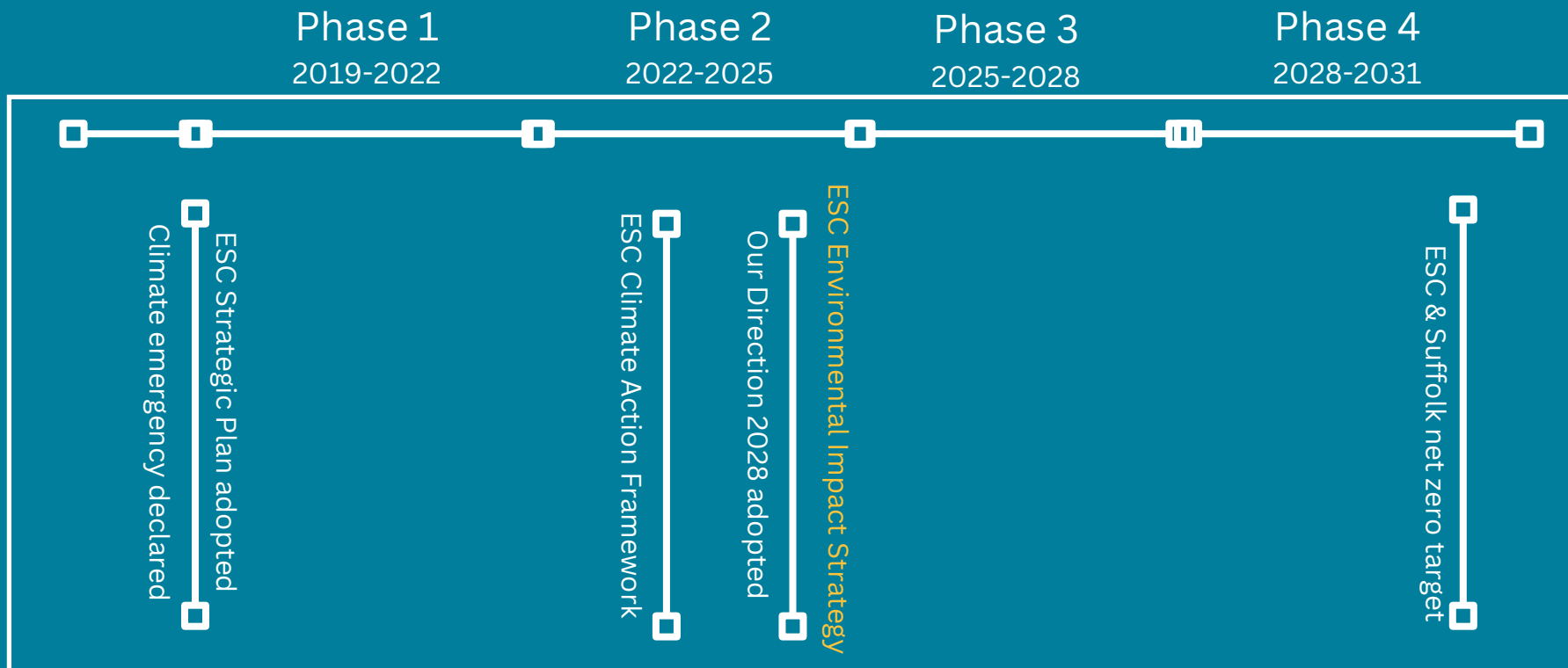
Who is this plan for?

This strategy is intended for anybody who lives, works or visits East Suffolk that is interested in understanding our response to the climate emergency. It is also being used as an internal review and prioritisation tool for East Suffolk officers and Members.

East Suffolk Council is working with a range of community, public and private organisations in the delivery of our environment programme projects, such as the Greenprint Forum. They will continue to be engaged and kept involved as this strategy develops.

3. Previous & Current Phases of Delivery

- East Suffolk Council has been responding to the climate and nature emergencies since the authority was established; building on action delivered by its predecessor authorities - Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils.
- The first phase of East Suffolk Council work began with a climate emergency declaration made in 2019 and the environment being established as a key pillar of the East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan, then followed by Our Direction 2028.
- The strategy builds on previous versions, including the 2020 Environment Plan and 2023 Climate Action Framework.
- Responding to the climate & biodiversity emergencies demands a dynamic approach. Therefore, this strategy is a living document that will be reviewed every quarter (3 months) with a full annual update. Additional sections will be added as new information emerges and projects will be removed as they are completed. **The next review and update is due November 2024.**



4. Our Environmental Impact Strategic Priorities

The Environmental Impact pillar of our strategic plan has eight core priorities for addressing the climate and biodiversity emergencies:



Delivering positive climate, nature, and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and the actions we take.



Continued commitment to net zero by 2030

We are committed to achieving net zero as a Council by 2030, and working collaboratively to deliver this for Suffolk, focussing and investing in this transition while protecting our core services.



Supporting sustainable transport

We will support sustainable transport – delivering our own Cycling and Walking Strategy whilst working hard with our partners enabling people to use public transport and travel in an environmentally sustainable way.



Restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

We are committed to restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, through rewilding and tree planting, enabling landowners to follow our lead. We will set ambitious biodiversity net gain targets and encourage improvement.



Support, promote and implement green tech

We will implement and support decarbonising, electrifying and greening technologies to create energy across the district, contributing to local and national energy infrastructures.



Work in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience

In the face of great threats to East Suffolk's coastline, we will work in partnership with stakeholders and communities to manage coastal adaptation and create resilience wherever possible.



Focus on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials

Through our own practices and by encouraging others, we will focus on the reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, including the eradication of single use plastics.



Encourage food self-sufficiency

We will reduce food waste and encourage more local food production, including community growing schemes, to reduce food miles. We will support residents and community groups to develop food practices which move away from chemical control.



Preserve and maintain the district's beauty and heritage











We will seek to preserve and maintain the inherent beauty and attraction of East Suffolk including its natural landscape and conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage, retaining its unique selling points for generations to come.

5. Guiding Principles: Linking Resource Use, Biodiversity Loss & Climate Change

- There is a large body of evidence that shows how local authorities can play a key role in responding to the climate emergency. Beyond decarbonising our energy production and transport, studies also show how reducing our use of resources and restoring our natural systems play a key role addressing climate change.
- There are many key national Government strategies that make this link between nature recovery, use of natural resources and responding to climate change. Our ongoing work is informed by these national strategies and studies and we will continue to seek to incorporate their recommendations in our programme of action.
- Our collaboration with other local authorities on larger challenges (such as decarbonising the energy grid) also makes this link between restoring nature and climate change. We have chosen to take a pragmatic, systems-led approach that does not separate climate and nature, and embeds the environment across the delivery of our services and how we manage our assets.



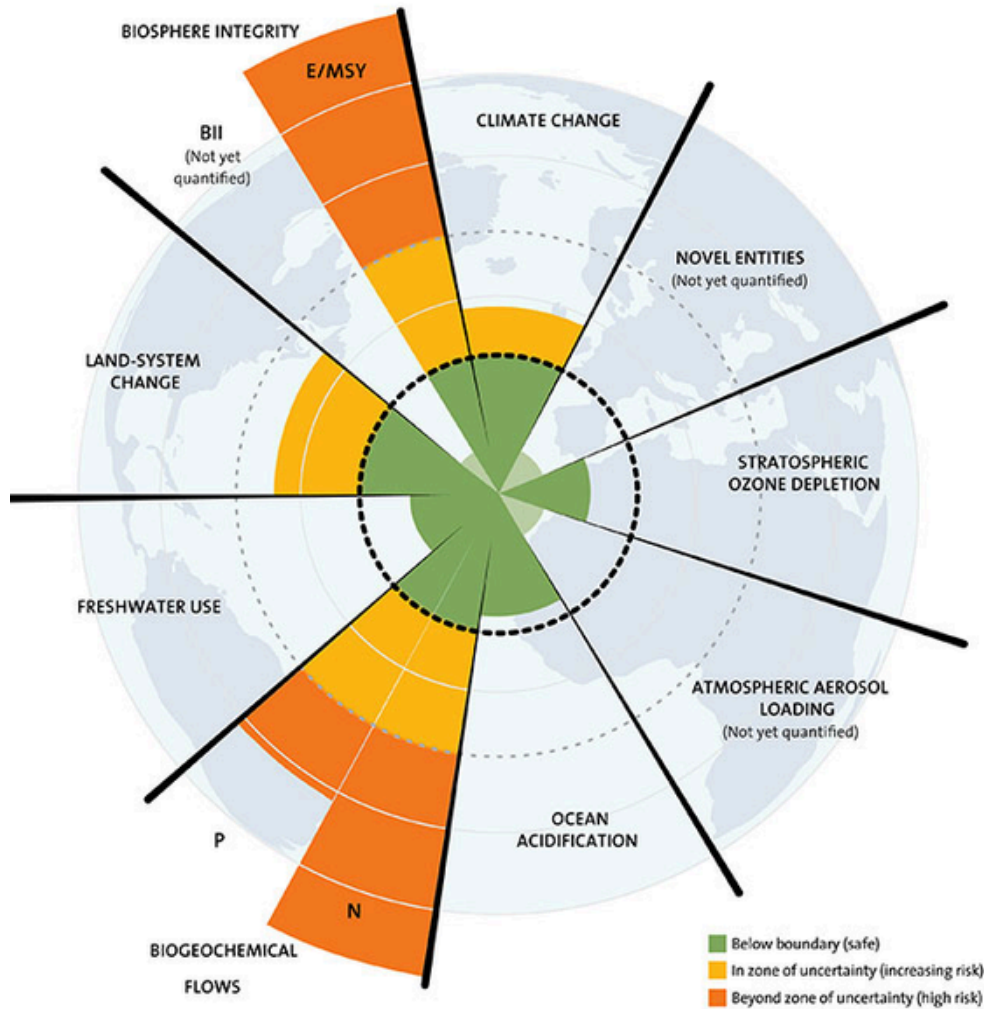
Outcome Indicator Framework 2021

Air  A 7 final indicators	Water  B 3 final indicators 3 interim indicators	Seas and Estuaries  C 7 interim indicators 3 new this year	Wildlife  D 1 final indicators 4 interim indicators	Natural Resources  E 4 final indicators 3 interim indicators 1 new this year
Resilience  F In development	Natural Beauty and Engagement  G 1 final indicator 2 interim indicators	Biosecurity, Chemical and Noise  H 4 interim indicators 2 new this year	Resource Use and Waste  J 1 final indicator 4 interim indicators	International  K 1 final indicator 1 new this year

The UK Government 25 Year Environment Plan (2021) and Net Zero strategy have a direct impact on the delivery of our services and tracks the progress of our national response. www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan

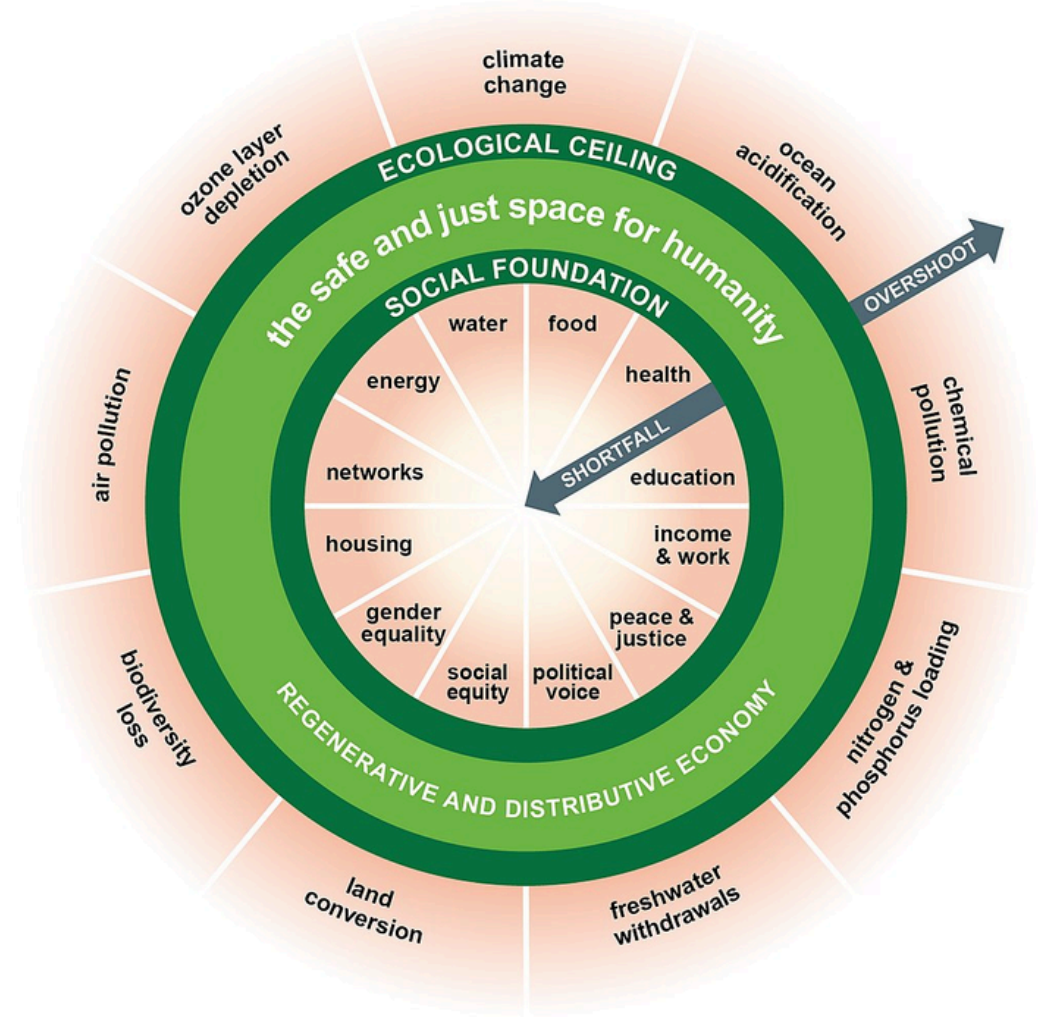


The **UN Sustainable Development Goals** provide an overview of how local action contributes to international efforts to address issues impacting our society and natural systems, while addressing issues such as poverty and equality. www.sdg.un.org/goals



The **Stockholm Institute's planetary boundaries** approach helps us consider our current impact on our natural systems and key problem areas.

www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries



Kate Rayworth's '**Doughnut Economics**' model is being used by local authorities to consider the range of systems that underpin society.

www.doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics

6. What Does Environmental Impact Mean for East Suffolk?

The challenge:

What does responding to climate and nature loss mean to us?



Responding to increased risk of severe weather.



Responding to coastal change and delivering adaptation.



A duty to lead by example to encourage a wide range of actions from others, such as recycling and reducing use of resources.



Addressing pressure on our key resources, such as water.



Addressing changes to habitat but also species distribution and numbers.



Ensuring East Suffolk Council and community assets are energy efficient. The current reliance on car transport in a large, rural district.



Delivering climate resilient and low energy homes through property energy retrofitting.



The level of resources and funding required to deliver the significant, tangible change required.

The opportunities:

What does a climate and nature positive East Suffolk look like?



A net zero district, playing our role in delivering a net zero UK.



Residents and communities are engaged in climate action and nature and kept up to date.



A local economy that takes advantage of the opportunities, such as new jobs. Efficient, cost effective and sustainable public facilities.



Enabling resilient coastal communities and economies.



Habitats are restored, enhanced and enlarged; biodiversity net gain projects deliver measurable benefits to nature.



Working and communicating with partners and communities on national issues, such as low carbon mobility and green energy production.



The Greenprint Forum vision is delivered, enabling communities to own and deliver their own projects.



A healthy District and communities.



Micro and major energy projects are low carbon and renewable.



Transport options are varied and low carbon, with accessible and sustainable public transport services.



Delivering homes that are energy efficient and warm / cool.



Well resourced and faster acting environmental enforcement and monitoring across Council services.

7. East Suffolk Council's Powers, Duties, and Services

As a district authority, East Suffolk Council has a specific range of duties and services it must deliver, plus powers it can utilise. These areas are where East Suffolk Council can deliver the most meaningful and measurable change. Therefore, our action on climate change is prioritised on these areas. Our core powers and duties relate to the following areas:

Adult Services (support role)

Benefits Advice

Planning

Business Employment and Markets

Children & Family Care (support role)

Coastal Management

Commercial Activities

Community Safety

Local Authority & Community Housing

Parking Enforcement

Democracy

Educational Support

Environmental Protection

Environmental Health

Fire Safety

Health & Social Care (support role)

Highway Maintenance (support role)

Housing

Internal Operations

Leisure & Culture

Regeneration

Building Control

Anti-social Behaviour

Incident Response

Ports and Harbours

Transport Licencing

Taxi and Private Hire

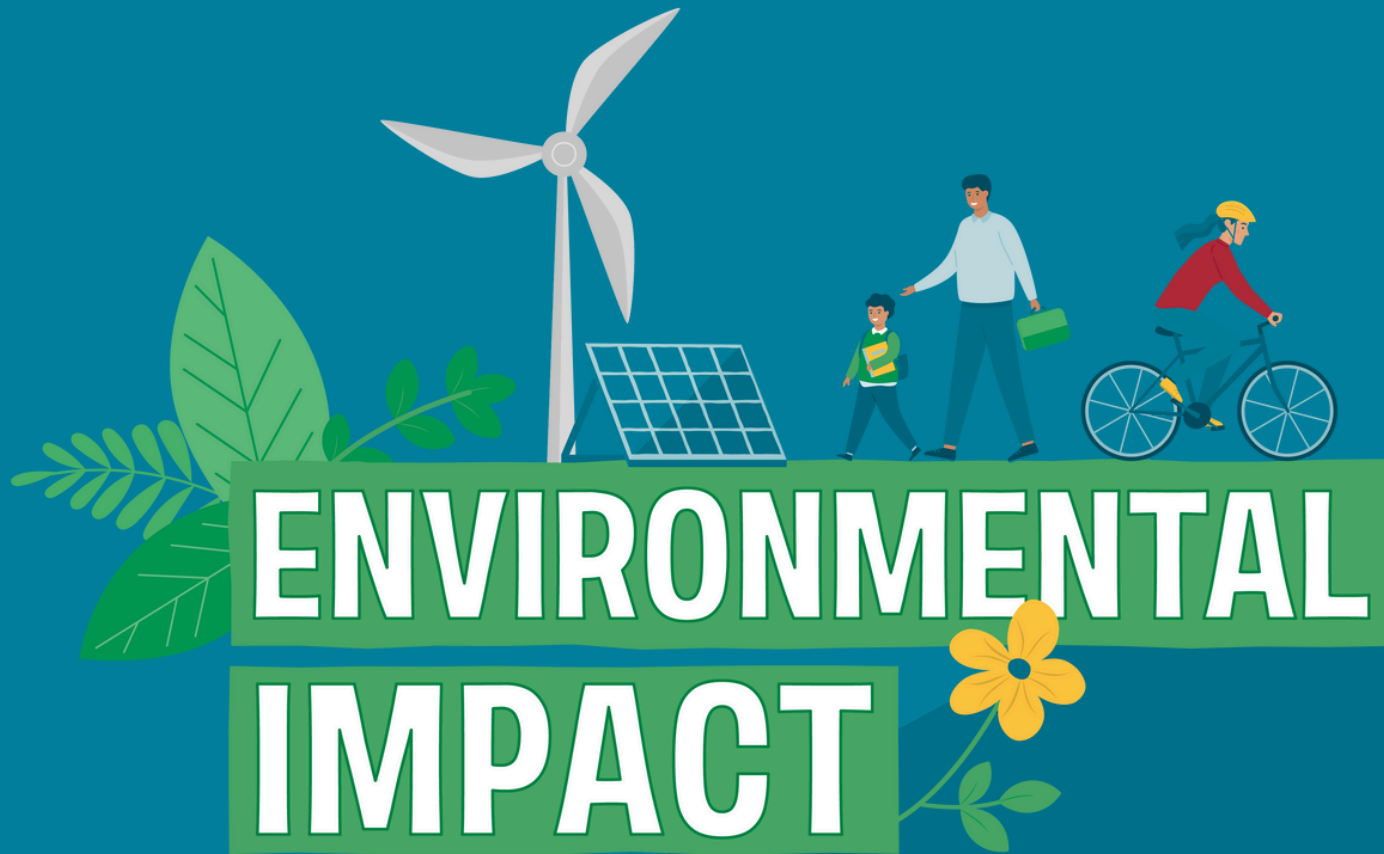
Community Transport

Highways & Footpaths

Recycling / Waste Collection



Delivering the Strategy



8. Delivering the Strategy

East Suffolk Council has delivered previous phases of action under former corporate strategies and plans, delivering tangible change across the district and enabling wider action across Suffolk. Therefore, the workstreams included in this plan build on these previous phases of work.

By continuing to deliver our current projects and adding new workstreams we will continue to deliver meaningful and measurable action against our eight environmental impact priorities. A number of new plans are also in development, including the HRA property retrofit plan and ESC net zero plan.

How are we Prioritising our Actions?

We are prioritising our action under the Our Direction 2028 priorities where we can make the greatest positive difference. Where possible, we are also building on previously delivered projects on these themes, taking forward the learning on what approaches are likely to be successful.

PRIORITY: WE CAN MAKE A MEASUREABLE IMPACT NOW

For example, we have the funding, resources and relevant powers and duties to make a positive measurable difference.

OWNERSHIP: RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER AGENCIES

For example, actions are being covered by central government departments or other Local Authorities / organisations.

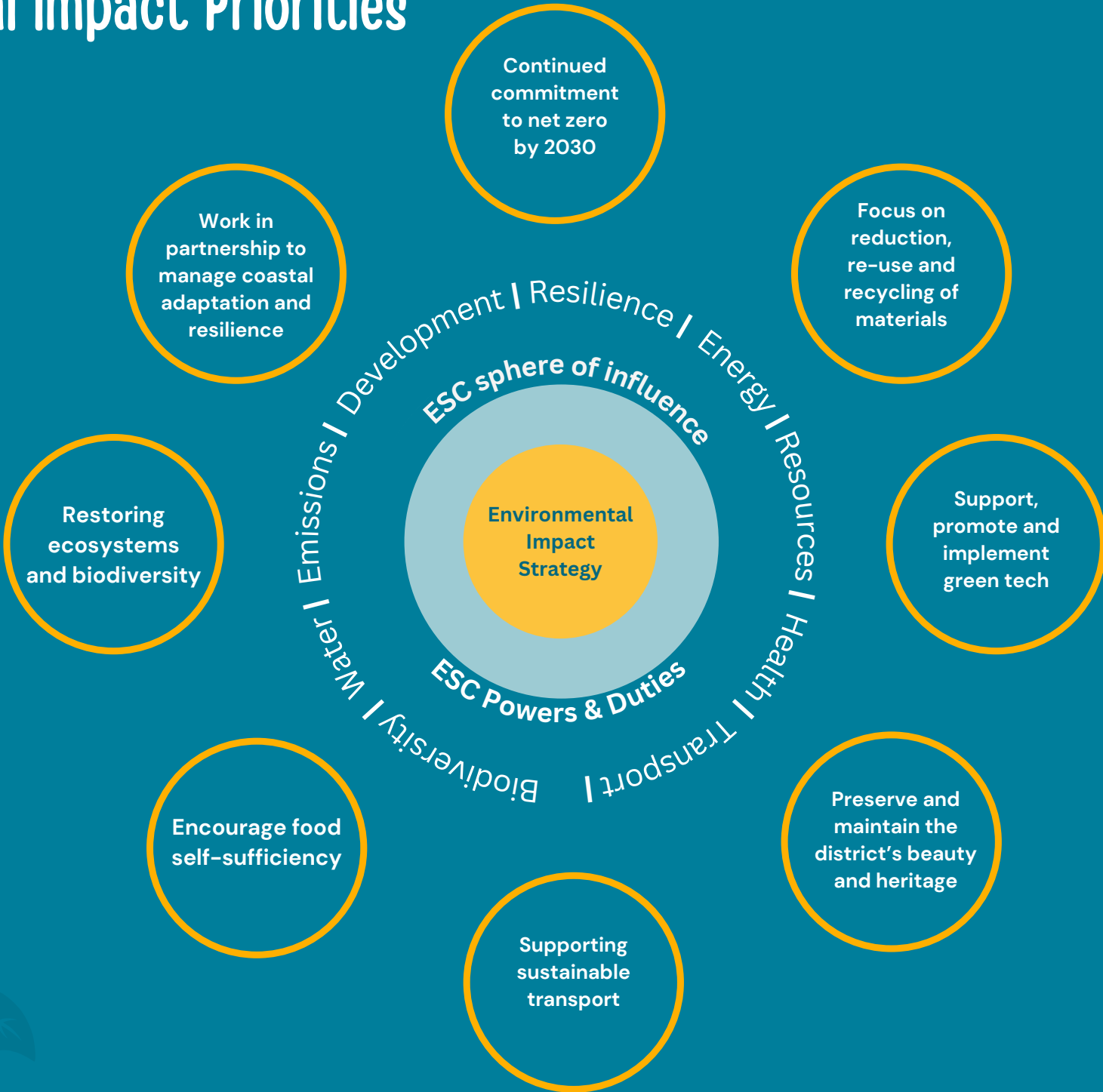
TIMING: WE CAN ENABLE MEASURABLE CHANGE IN THE FUTURE

Some activities can be delivered in the short term whilst others are longer term, but that doesn't make them less important. For example, we are waiting for new policies to be developed or to secure the necessary funding / resources.

CURRENT CAPACITY: FOR FUTURE PHASE OF ACTION PLAN

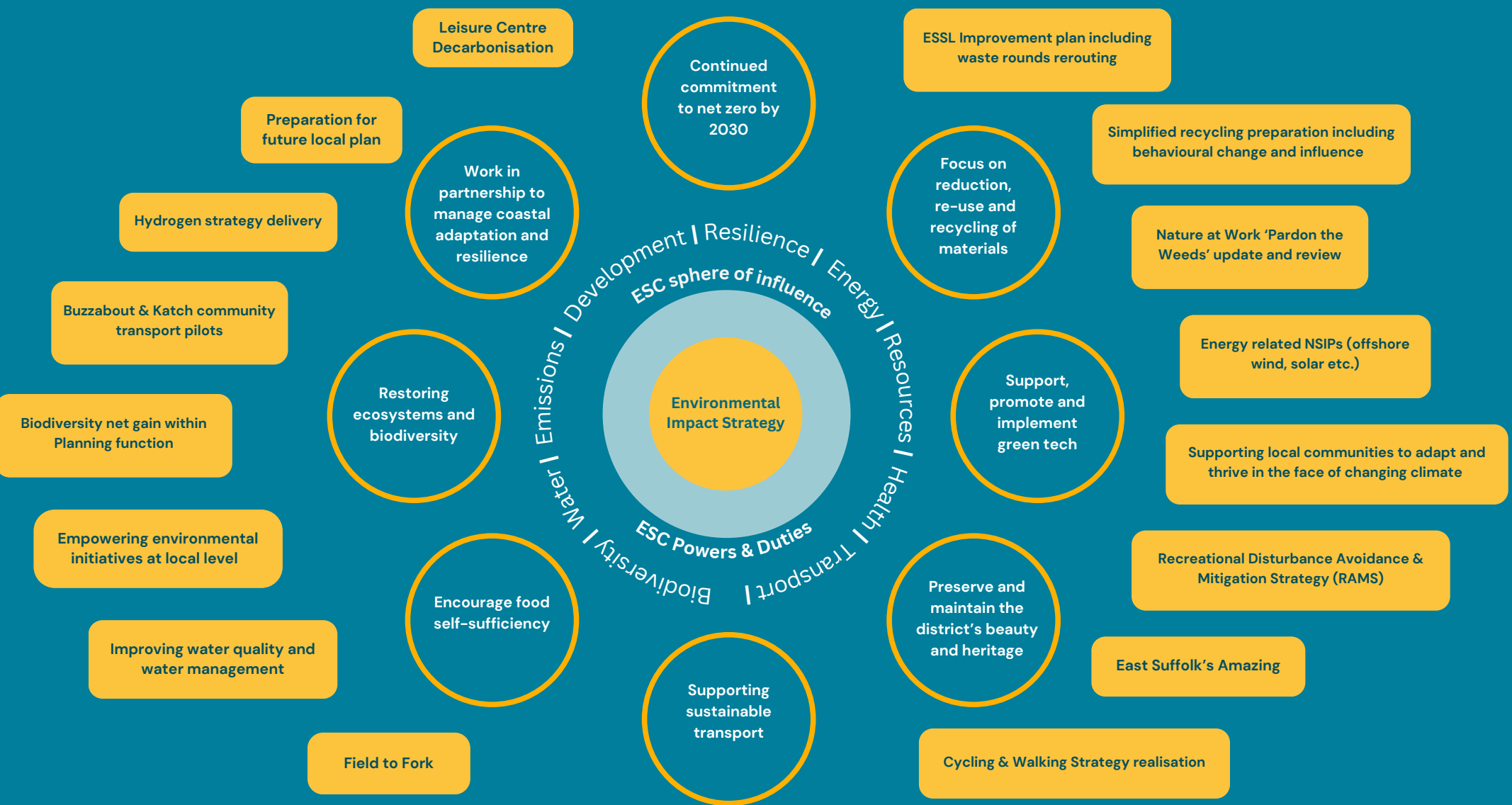
For example, current resources are focussed on delivering priority actions and key services.

9. Our Environmental Impact Priorities





Bringing it together: Our Environmental Impact Strategic Action Plan priority workstreams



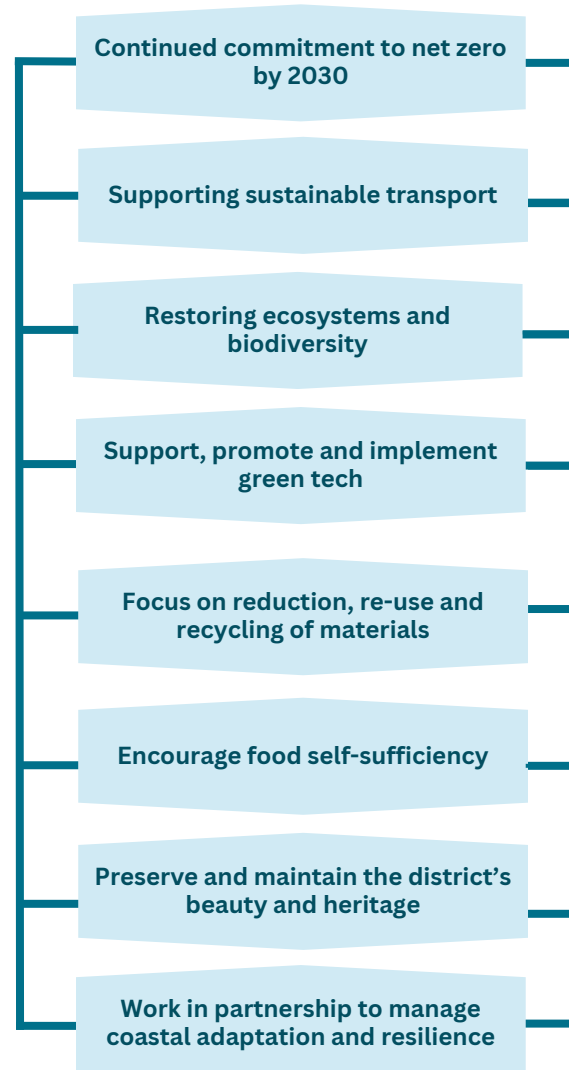
10. Overview of our Environmental Impact Action Workstreams

This graphic shows the range of workstreams we are actively developing and delivering

Leading action through our powers, duties & services



Our Direction 2028: Environmental Impact Priorities



Enabling wider action through our sphere of influence



Key

Being delivered

In development

Early stage plan

ESC Strategic Plan pillars

Our Direction 2028 Foundations: Our Local Plans

The Council's Local Plans contain planning policies which guide decisions on planning applications for new development. The Council's adopted Local Plans contain visions and policies which support the Environmental Impact theme. Consideration of the protection and enhancement of the environment was integral and fundamental to the preparation of the Plans, alongside identifying strategies to meet other economic and social objectives.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2020) vision recognises climate change as a key challenge for the plan area, and contains strategic priorities to 'mitigate human impact on the environment and reduce contributions to climate change by conserving natural resources' and 'to enhance and protect the natural, built and historic environment and provide accessible green infrastructure and public open spaces'.

The Waveney Local Plan (2019) vision includes the growth of offshore renewable energy, reducing climate change emission per capita, addressing flood risk and adapting to coastal change. Strategic priorities include 'To reduce contributions to climate change and mitigate the effects and conserve natural resources' and 'to enhance and protect the natural, built and historic environment'.

In addition to being integral to the strategies of the plans, both Local Plans have chapters dedicated to addressing climate change issues and include planning policies on:

- **Flood risk and coastal change;**
- **Renewable and low carbon energy;**
- **Sustainable construction;**
- **Sustainable transport;**
- **Natural environment;**
- **Historic environment;**
- **Design.**



Our Direction 2028 Foundations: Our Local Plans

A number of Supplementary Planning Documents have been prepared to support the implementation of the planning policies in the Local Plans, including:

- **Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document;**
- **Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document;**
- **Historic Environment supplementary Planning Document;**
- **Recreational Disturbance and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document;**
- **North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.**

A number of communities have also prepared Neighbourhood Plans, which form part of the development plan against which applications for planning permission are determined, alongside the Local Plans. The Council provides support to communities preparing, or thinking of preparing, a Neighbourhood Plan. There are 23 'made' Neighbourhood Plans in the district, with many more under preparation. Many Neighbourhood Plans include local policies on topics that relate to the Environmental Impact theme, including design, landscape and biodiversity.

The Council has set out an indicative timetable (in its March 2024 [Local Development Scheme](#)) for preparation of an East Suffolk Local Plan, with an anticipated start of spring/summer 2025 subject to emerging detail on the national plan-making reforms. The preparation of the next Local Plan will be the opportunity to consider appropriate future planning policies for the protection and enhancement of the environment and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, alongside planning for new development.



Our Direction 2028 Foundations: Protection & Enforcement

Environmental enforcement activities are delivered by a range of teams across our Service Areas. These include Environmental Protection, Housing, Building Control, Licencing, Coastal Management, Assets and Communities.

Town and Parish Councils and communities also play a key role feeding into these teams as our ‘environmental eyes and ears on the ground’.

Our enforcement, protection and monitoring functions include reactive measures to protect trees by serving TPOs, ongoing air quality monitoring through our Environmental Protection team, Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy mitigation and Private Sector Housing work to ensure homes are both healthy and more sustainable.

- **Although Planning Enforcement is a discretionary duty, East Suffolk Council takes its role in this issue very seriously, both to prevent and enforce breaches, in line with our Compliance and Enforcement Policy.**
- **Our aim is to avoid enforcement action in the first place by making sure all planning and development is compliant and delivered to as high a standard as possible by closely monitoring all development to ensure its being delivered in accordance with what has been permitted.**
- **We work closely with partners, such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.**
- **We will continue to resource our enforcement teams.**
- **We will improve our communications on what we are doing on this key topic.**
- **We will continue to have a team of arboricultural officers in place, delivering a range of activities including determining applications for works to Tree Preservation Order trees and serving new Tree Preservation Orders where threatened loss of trees would lead to a loss of public amenity.**
- **We will continue to resource our team of in-house ecologists, both to deliver our BNG obligations and work collaboratively across East Suffolk to proactively respond to the nature emergency.**
- **Our Housing officers will continue to work to ensure private sector housing is fit for the future.**



Spotlight: Planning enforcement & Building Control

The main purpose of planning enforcement is to investigate alleged contraventions of planning control and, where appropriate, to negotiate or pursue formal enforcement action.

Examples of alleged breaches of planning control include unauthorised works to listed buildings or protected trees.

East Suffolk Council has a Local Planning Enforcement Plan in place. This plan has been produced in response to the National Planning Policy Framework and outlines how the Council will approach enforcement to ensure public confidence in the planning system.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-and-enforcement/planning-enforcement/

East Suffolk Council also has an award-winning Building Control team to ensure building and developments adhere to regulations, such as energy efficiency.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/building-control/

We have substantially increased our specialist resource in the planning service, and now have a large team of specialists covering ecology, design and heritage, landscape and arboriculture and rights of way, as well as hosting the 'Wildlife Wise' Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Delivery Manager and RAMS Strategic Advisor on behalf of the Suffolk Coast RAMS partnership.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/developer-contributions/rams/

Overview:

Our Strategic Priorities





Strategic priority 1:

Continued commitment
to net zero by 2030

11. Environment Impact Priority 1: Continued Commitment to Net Zero by 2030

‘We are committed to achieving net zero as a council by 2030, and working collaboratively to deliver this for Suffolk, focussing and investing in this transition while protecting our core services’.

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	Leisure Centre refurbishment and decarbonisation programmes.	Communities	In progress
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead team	Status
2	Updated 2030 Net Zero ESC plan.	Operations	To be developed
3	ESC Fleet Decarbonisation programme.	Operations	In development
4	ESC EV charging infrastructure plan: Action plan to install more EV chargers in East Suffolk.	Operations	In development
5	Maximise access to energy efficient cooking equipment through the ETS cooking kit project.	Communities	In progress
6	Work with the Warm Homes, Healthy People Team to identify those most in need of ‘Winter Warmth’ Packs.	Communities	In progress
7	Freeport East.	Economic Development & Regeneration	In progress
8	ESC Officer climate change training.	Human Resources	2024 roll out
9	Developer Charter.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
10	Implementation of the Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
11	Warmer Homes Suffolk delivery programme.	Housing	Delivery phase

Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead team	Status
12	ESC residential properties energy efficiency retrofit programme.	Housing	Pilot phase
13	Delivering ESC developments to the highest viable and achievable environmental standards.	Housing	In progress
14	Setting up a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.	Legal and Democratic Services	In development
15	Suffolk Climate Change Partnership programme delivery.	Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk Authorities	Delivery phase
16	Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan delivery.	Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk CC	Delivery phase
17	ESC Annual Greenhouse Gas Report.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Next report due late 2024
18	Plug In Suffolk: EV charger network for Suffolk residents without off-street parking.	Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk CC	In progress
19	Supporting the development of community energy projects in East Suffolk.	Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk CCI	In development
20	Supporting the development of heat network projects in East Suffolk.	Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk CC	In development
21	East Suffolk Business Move to Net Zero grant programme.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Active, ends March 2025
22	Supporting the Suffolk Net Zero Business Advice Service.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Active, ends March 2025
23	Neighbourhood Plan Climate Change guidance.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In development
24	Staff business travel: EV pool cars and car sharing currently being utilised. Updated staff business travel plan in development. Staff salary sacrifice schemes for EV purchase and Cycle to work scheme in place.	Operations, HR, Environmental Services & Port Health	Active
25	ESC buildings renewable energy ESC offices heated with air source heat pumps. Initial phase of solar PV installed on leisure centres and buildings. Grid electricity purchased on renewable energy tariff.	Operations, Communities	Active

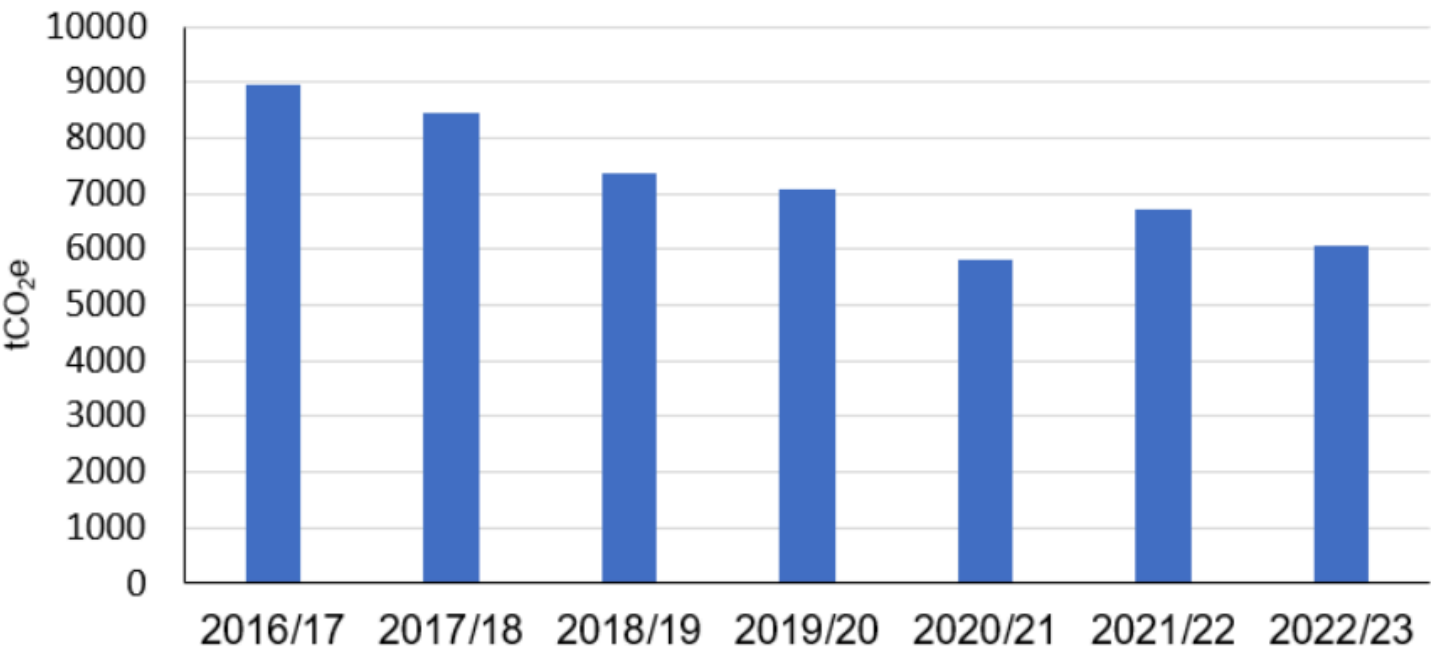
Environment Impact Priority 1: Continued Commitment to Net Zero by 2030

East Suffolk Council conducts an annual audit of the emissions arising from its estates and activities. In 2022/23, total quantified emissions, at 6064 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e), were down by 660 tCO2e, that's a decrease of 9.9% from 2021/22.

The chart below shows the council's total emissions for each of the last seven years. For the years 2016/17, the data for the former districts of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, which joined to form East Suffolk Council in 2019/20, are combined.

Over the period from 2016/17 to 2022/23, the council's emissions overall have reduced by 32.4%. In 2021/22, our emissions increased by 162 tCO2e or 3.2% from 2020/21. This was largely due to the reopening from April 2021 of our leisure centres, which had been closed for most of 2020/21 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Annual total emissions in current scope of Annual Greenhouse Gas report arising from activities of the Council 2016/17 to 2022/23 (Tonnes of CO₂e)



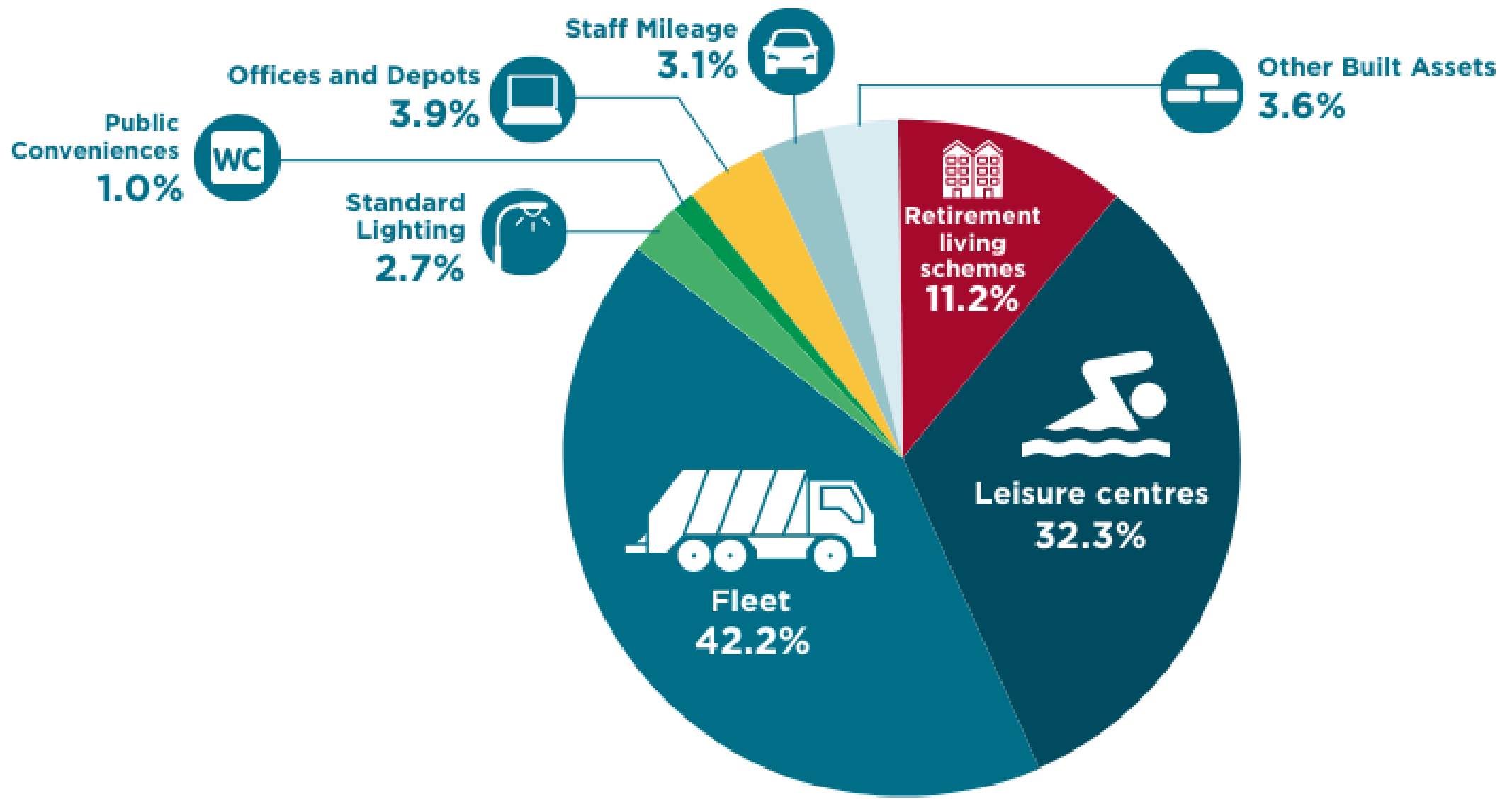
What is net zero?

Further information on how net zero is defined with a detailed analysis of our emissions footprint can be found in our Annual Greenhouse Gas Report on our website [here](#)



The pie chart below shows the council’s total quantified emissions for 2022/23 according to the contributions made by various activities. Note that the three largest contributors (fleet, leisure centres and retirement living schemes) are collectively responsible for approximately 85% of the emissions. For this reason, the council’s emissions reduction plans are focused on these key aspects.

➡ [Our latest Annual Greenhouse Gas Report can be found online here.](#)



Emissions Data 2022/23



24.6%



Consumption in gas reduced by 24.6% from 2016/17 to 2022/23

32.4%



Total quantified emissions reduced by 32.4% over the period from 2016/17 to 2022/23

51.5%



Emissions associated with consumption of Grid electricity in 2022/23 down 51.5% compared to 2017/18

69.8%



69.8% reduction in emissions from energy use at our Lowestoft offices since we moved to Riverside in 2014/15

85.2%



85.2% reduction in emissions from energy use at our Melton offices since we moved to East Suffolk House in 2015/16

16.4%



16.4% reduction in emissions associated with use of all fuels by our fleet in 2022/23 compared to 2016/17

25.3%



25.3% reduction in km travelled on council business, and 35.3% reduction in emissions from business travel, in 2022/23 compared to 2013/14

What is net zero?

Further information on how net zero is defined with a detailed analysis of our emissions footprint can be found in our [Annual Greenhouse Gas Report on our website here](#)



Decarbonising the ESC fleet

Whilst longer term solutions such as hydrogen as fuel remain under investigation, the council has commenced the implementation, as an interim alternative to diesel, the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil as fuel for the majority of its fleet which are compatible with this renewable fuel as a direct substitute for diesel. The fleet commenced limited use of this fuel from June 2022 onwards, and once the entire fleet is using it, it has the potential to make significant reductions in the emissions attributable to the fleet.

The council currently has ten battery electric (BEV) vehicles on its fleet, comprised of four electric vans and three electric cars on our car parks management fleet, and three electric pool cars. In 2022/23, these ten vehicles travelled a total of 117,258 km (72,861 miles) on council business that would otherwise have been incurred using diesel or petrol powered vehicles, providing an estimated non-deductible avoidance of around 12.2 tCO₂e.

Reducing staff business mileage

Whilst recognising that some business travel is essential, for example to carry out site inspections and to engage with our communities, we also recognise that much business travel, for example to attend meetings internally and with other organisations, can be conducted effectively through the use of remote technology and this approach has been embedded in our new system of agile working. In 2022/23, business mileage was down 16.1%, and emissions from our business mileage were down 20.3% when compared to the year 2019/20 (the last financial year before Covid restrictions took effect).

Installing Solar PV

Solar PV arrays are installed on one of the council's depots, three of its leisure centres, and ten of its retirement and communal housing schemes, providing a total combined capacity of approximately 293 kW. This provides renewable energy to help contribute to the electricity requirements of these sites.

Next steps

In 2024 we will complete an updated net zero plan for ESC greenhouse gas emissions.

As our work has focused on 'scope 1 & 2 emissions' (fuel, our vehicles, electricity, and heat) we will also consider our ability to address wider 'scope 3*' emissions much of which are not currently measured within our own emissions footprint but where we may be able to enable a positive difference. These include: Purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting, waste disposal, transportation and distribution, investments, leased assets.

As a last resort, we will also consider the need for investing in carbon positive and sequestration projects to offset elements of our footprint that we can't fully decarbonise, such as emissions related to drawing energy from the national grid. The focus will be on investing in local carbon positive / sequestration projects.

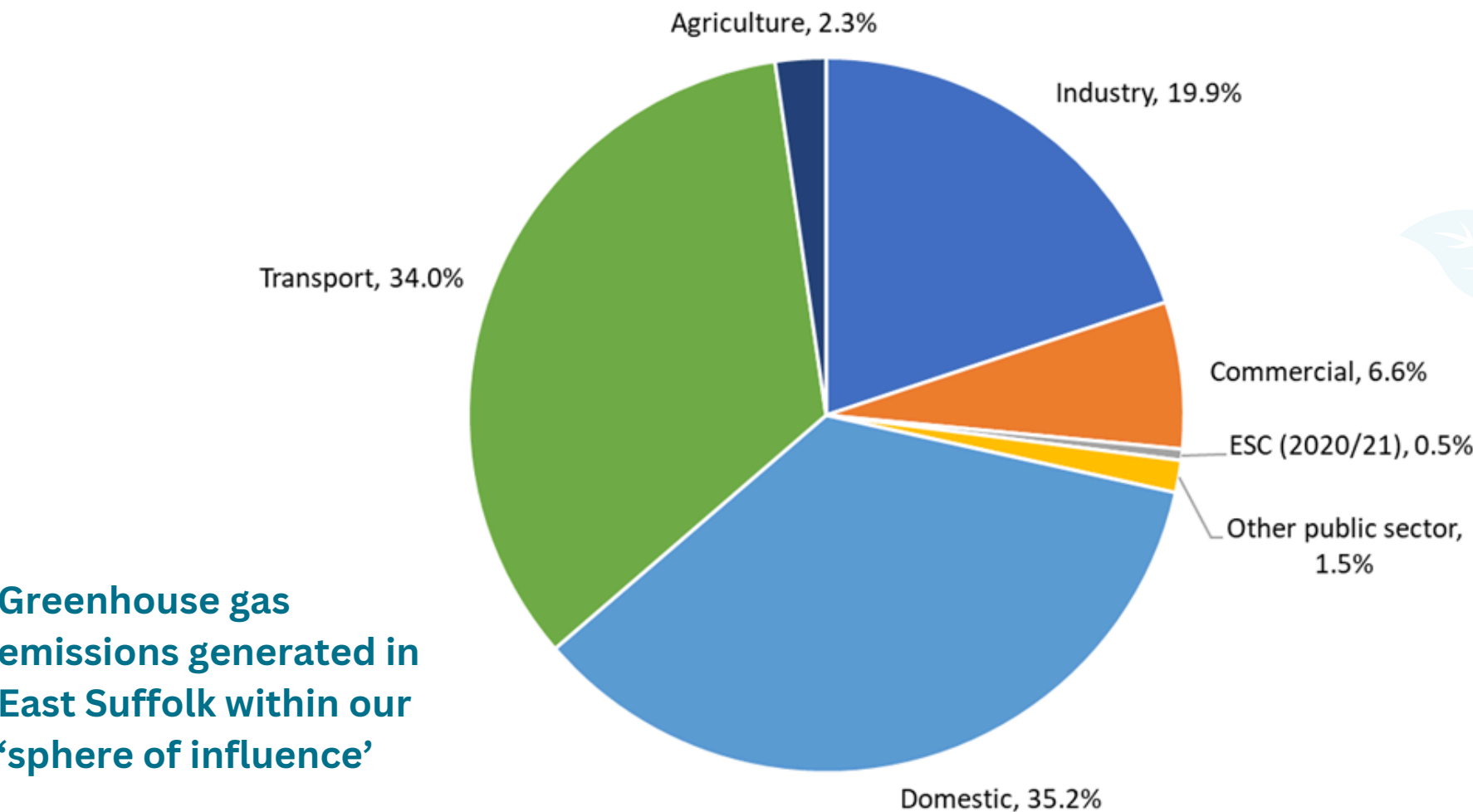
➡ *See www.carbontrust.com for more information on 'scope 3' emissions

Enabling wider climate action through our sphere of influence:

When understanding how we can help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions produced across East Suffolk, we are guided by Central Government's definition of the 'territorial CO2e emissions estimates within the scope of influence of Local Authorities'.

These are the wider CO2e emissions produced within our district where we may be able to have a positive influence. In 2020 this was estimated to be 1.01 million tCO2e of Suffolk's 4.2 million tCO2e - significantly greater than our own organisation's footprint. We use this to help us prioritise the actions where we have the greatest ability to make the most most positive difference.

This data is produced by the Suffolk Observatory and is also used to measure the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's progress. The share of these emissions viewed to be within our influence are below, with East Suffolk Council's total emissions included for comparison:





Strategic priority 2:

Supporting sustainable transport

12. Environment Impact Priority 2: Supporting Sustainable Transport

‘We will support sustainable transport – delivering our own Cycling and Walking Strategy whilst working hard with our partners enabling people to use public transport and travel in an environmentally sustainable way.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	Cycling & Walking strategy realisation: Implementation of East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy (guided by the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group, working with external partners).	Environmental Services and Port Health; Planning, Building Control and Coastal Management	Planning stage
2	Rural ‘demand responsive’ buses and community transport pilots (Katch & Buzzabout).	Communities	Delivery
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
3	Continue to support the Transport and Travel Task and Finish Group and ensure links to the walking and cycling strategy and new Transport Member Working Group.	Communities	Active
4	25% taxi licence discounts for EV taxis.	Legal and Democratic Services	Active
5	Developing approach to transport mitigation and funding to support growth in the south of the district (in Ipswich Strategic Planning Area).	Planning, Building Control and Coastal Management	In development
6	Quiet Lanes Suffolk programme.	Environmental Services and Port Health; GreenPrint Forum	Active
7	Air quality monitoring programme.	Environmental Services and Port Health	Ongoing



Strategic priority 3:

Restoring ecosystems & biodiversity

13. Environment Impact Priority 3: Restoring Ecosystems and Biodiversity

‘We are committed to restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, through rewilding and tree planting, enabling landowners to follow our lead. We will set ambitious biodiversity net gain targets and encourage improvements.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	Biodiversity Net Gain delivery and monitoring.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Active
2	‘Nature at Work’ to replace and expand on ‘Pardon the Weeds’ programme: Reduced mowing and community habitat creation project, including community and school land.	Environmental Services & Port Health; Operations	In progress, phase 2 in development
3	Wildlife Wise: Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) delivery.	Planning, Building Control and Coastal Management	In progress
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
4	ESC buildings, land renaturing, and biodiversity monitoring.	Environmental Services & Port Health	In progress
5	Staff environment volunteering programme.	Environmental Services & Port Health	In progress
6	Nature First small grant scheme.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Next phase in development
7	Community environment projects equipment fund.	Operations	Active
8	East Suffolk in Bloom: Pollinator bulb packs for Town & Parish Councils.	Operations	Next phase in development
9	Management of ESC-owned designated nature conservation sites.	Operations	Active
10	East Suffolk Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Investigating approach & scope
11	Review of Tree Preservation Orders, enforcement of existing orders.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing

Environment Impact Priority 3: Restoring Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
12	Supporting landowners and communities install 'Bee Cafes' in key locations.	Environmental Services & Port Health	In development
13	Local Nature Recovery Strategy development (as a Supporting Authority).	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management; Environmental Services & Port Health with Suffolk CC	In development, to be published in 2025
14	GreenPrint Forum: Funding and resourcing the work of this network of community environment groups.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Ongoing
15	Tree & Hedgerow Strategy: Planting, protection & maintenance.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Mgt; Environmental Services & Port Health	Initial scoping
16	Delivering our statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity when making decisions.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
17	Plan to significantly reduce use of glyphosate herbicide.	Operations, Environmental Services & Port Health	In development
18	Monitoring & Enforcement: Protecting habitats from unauthorised development where possible.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
19	Monitoring & Enforcement: Protecting trees through reactive Tree Protection Orders.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
20	Asset management strategy.	Operations	In development
21	Neighbourhood Plan Climate Change guidance.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In development
22	ESC buildings green roofs & nesting: Sedum roofs in place at Melton HQ. Birds currently using these sites to nest, plus swifts nesting in nest boxes installed.	Operations	Ongoing



Strategic priority 4:

Support, promote and
implement green tech

14. Environment Impact Priority 4: Support, Promote and Implement Green Tech

‘We will implement and support decarbonising, electrifying and greening technologies to create energy across the district, contributing to local and national energy infrastructures.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	East Suffolk Clean Hydrogen Strategy delivery.	Economic Development & Regeneration	In progress
2	Engagement in the development of energy-related Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) to ensure the best outcome for East Suffolk by working with promoters to seek a coordinated strategic approach to the delivery of projects and the minimisation, as far as possible, of adverse impacts and maximisation of benefits.	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Team, Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Active
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
3	Lowestoft Power Park ‘Nexus’ development.	Operations	Construction underway
4	Continuing support of Suffolk Solar Together scheme for householders able to afford solar PV installations.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Active



Strategic priority 5:

Work in partnership to manage coastal adaptation & resilience

15. Environment Impact Priority 5: Work in Partnership to Manage Coastal Adaptation & Resilience

Coastal Partnership East (CPE) was formed in 2016 to bring together the expertise of the coastal management officers across Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and East Suffolk Council. The multi-skilled team include specialists in engineering, coastal science, engagement, communication, incident and crisis management, media, partnership funding, planning and policy. CPE manage almost 60% of the coast between Holkham in Norfolk and Landguard Point in Suffolk, some of which is managed through hard coastal defences but in other areas natural erosion is taking place resulting in one of Europe's fastest eroding coasts.

Over 352,000 people live in our coastal zone and many more work on and visit it. Almost 3,000 permanent homes are at known erosion risk, this equates to 7,500 people, many of these in socially deprived areas and many thousands more properties (holiday accommodation and coastal businesses) are at risk.

Our diverse coastal zone needs a coastal partnership that can deliver flexible coastal management solutions that also support the wider aspirations of national government departments, local authority plans/strategies and those of our local communities and partners.

Our team is delivering a prioritised programme of capital and revenue investment through both traditional coastal management and innovative resilience + adaptation programmes. We aim to maximise the local authority resources we have through a team that is resilient to the coastal management challenges we face. We aim to communicate our work clearly and create opportunities for co-creation and collaboration that benefit those at greatest risk of coastal change now and for the future.

Our joint Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

A document providing planning guidance for coastal communities in East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk was formally adopted in September 2023. The joint Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), prepared in partnership by East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Broads Authority and Coastal Partnership East, supports the implementation of Local Plan policies relating to the coast from Holkham in North Norfolk to Felixstowe in East Suffolk. In particular, the guidance relates to development within Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs), rollback and relocation away from CCMAs, and enabling development which can generate additional finance to help fund a rollback or relocation scheme.



Strategic priority 5: Work in partnership to manage coastal adaptation & resilience

‘In the face of great threats to East Suffolk’s coastline, we will work in partnership with stakeholders and communities to manage coastal adaptation and create resilience wherever possible.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	Supporting individual local communities to adapt and thrive in the face of a changing climate.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
2	Lowestoft Flood Risk Management.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Active
3	Thorpeness Coastal Adaptation Project.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
4	National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) reviewing and rollout of new risk maps.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
5	Resilient Coast Programme: Improved resilience for five key coastal communities.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
6	Co-create Adaptation Plans with our five key communities.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
7	Community and wider service area engagement in development of Emergency Plans.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
8	Resilient Coast Programme: Continuing to value our wider coast and attract new funding for coastal management.	Coastal Partnership East; Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress
9	Implementing Planning policies and guidance on Sustainable Urban Drainage SuDS and mitigating flood risk contained in the Sustainable Construction SPD.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	In progress



Strategic priority 6:

Focus on reduction, re-use
and recycling of materials

16. Environment Impact Priority 6: Focus on Reduction, Re-use and Recycling of Materials

‘Through our own practices and encouraging others, we will focus on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, including the eradication of single use plastics.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	ESSL Improvement Plan including waste rounds routing. Efficient routing should deliver savings in terms of cost, carbon, vehicles and staff, alongside delivering a robust and reliable service for residents.	Operations	Active
2	Simpler Recycling implementation: The objective is to ensure that new collection services are introduced in line with statutory obligations and that we increase our recycling rates.	Operations	Active
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
3	Food waste collections: Alongside the introduction of the food waste collection service, we will introduce and promote food waste prevention schemes such as home composting and the county wide food savvy campaign.	Operations	To be in place for March 2026
4	Continued membership of Suffolk Waste Partnership: Working in partnership with other Authorities to have a co-ordinated Suffolk approach to recycling and waste, plus engagement campaigns.	Operations	In progress
5	Continued repair cafes support.	Operations	In progress
6	Continued community support textile collection support.	Operations	In progress
7	Continued small electricals collection pilots support.	Operations	In progress
8	Continued product refill shops through support Suffolk Recycling.	Operations	In progress
9	GreenPrint Forum Plastic Action champions support.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Ongoing
10	GreenPrint Forum Master composter support and community free compost ‘shovel it yourself!’ events.	Environmental Services & Port Health, Operations	Ongoing



Strategic priority 7:

Encourage food self-sufficiency

17. Environment Impact Priority 7: Encourage Food Self-Sufficiency

‘Through our own practices and encouraging others, we will focus on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, including the eradication of single use plastics.’

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Project		Lead team	Status
1	Field to Fork Growing Kits: 1,900 kits made available, each one containing compost pellets, seeds and free access to Groundwork East’s online GROW Programme.	Communities	Further phase if funding secured
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
2	Field to Fork Growing Spaces Grants: A small grants scheme of up to £2,000 to support community farms, allotments and gardens to help people get involved with growing their own food.	Communities	Latest phase delivered in 2024
3	Giveaway 1,000 packets of vegetable, herb and wildflower seeds to the community (sourced from local supplier).	Environmental Services & Port Health	Completed at Suffolk Show 2024
4	Urban community food growing spaces programme.	Environmental Services & Port Health	In development
5	Public Engagement programme: Representing ESC, Suffolk Waste Partnership & GreenPrint Forum at events throughout the year.	Environmental Services & Port Health, Operations	Ongoing
6	Continued support to allotments across the district.	Operations	Ongoing
7	Planning policy: Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document and Local Plans support allotments and community growing.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing



Strategic priority 8:

Preserve and maintain the district's beauty & heritage

18. Environment Impact Priority 8: Preserve and Maintain the District's Beauty & Heritage

'We will seek to preserve and maintain the inherent beauty and attraction of East Suffolk including its natural landscape and conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage, retaining its unique selling points for generations to come.'

Our current workstreams addressing this priority are:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Lead team	Status
1	Preparation for future Local Plan: Ensuring local plans work for local people and other key objectives.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Early stages
2	East Suffolk's Amazing, a cross-party working group of working to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk.	Operations, Communities	Active
3	Empowering environmental initiatives at a local level, such as through the East Suffolk GreenPrint Forum.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Active
Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
4	Implementing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs): Historic Environment SPD, North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide SPD.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
5	Provision of a dedicated and expert resource for Environmental Protection matters relating to NSIPS and energy projects.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Active
6	Housing Design Guide.	Housing	Initial development
7	Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document: Promoting housing developments which enhance wellbeing and protect the environment.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Active
8	Neighbourhood Planning Housing Guidance: Promote housing developments which enhance wellbeing and protect the environment, support sustainable transport and help restore ecosystems and biodiversity.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Active
9	Design/Place Review.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	To be completed during 2024

Environment Impact Priority 8: Preserve and Maintain the District's Beauty & Heritage

Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
10	Towns Fund: Lowestoft Seafront Vision.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Project initiation stage.
11	Towns Fund: Lowestoft Post Office redevelopment.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Project initiation stage.
12	Support Lowestoft Town Council in redevelopment of Lowestoft Town Hall.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Project initiation stage.
13	Delivery of the Lowestoft Partnership Scheme in a Conservation Area.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Delivery
14	North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood masterplan.	Economic Development & Regeneration	In development.
15	Delivery of Sizewell C Tourism and Natural Environment Mitigation Programmes.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management; Economic Development & Regeneration	Active
16	Felixstowe Development Programme.	Economic Development & Regeneration	In development.
17	Completion of the Contaminated Land Strategy and associated Action Plan.	Environmental Services & Port Health	Ongoing
18	Completion of the Air Quality Strategy and associated Action Plan.	Environmental Services & Port Health	In development
19	Enforcement, protection and monitoring.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
20	Quality of Place Awards to promote and support high standards of design, sustainable development and preservation in buildings and landscape.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Annual awards

Environment Impact Priority 8: Preserve and Maintain the District's Beauty & Heritage

Other key areas of work for 2024/25		Lead teams	Status
21	East Suffolk Developer Charter.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	
22	Preserving the heritage character of Conservation Areas through their review, protection and creation of new ones.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
23	Identifying Non-Designated Heritage Assets that are buildings and landscapes to ensure their future preservation and re-use.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
24	Programme of grant aid for heritage building owners to preserve and improve fabric, thermal performance and character.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
25	Encouraging the recycling / reuse of older buildings to preserve embodied energy, historic character, and local significance.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	Ongoing
26	Enforcement of the Building Regulations: Ensuring safe, accessible and efficient development.	Planning, Building Control & Coastal Management	
27	East Suffolk Economic Strategy 2022-27: The business challenges and opportunities from climate change and the environment are key areas of focus in the strategy.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Active
28	East Suffolk Visitor Economy Strategy 2022-27: Green tourism is a core focus.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Active

Priority 8: Preserve and maintain the district's beauty & heritage: Key policies, plans & strategies

Our work to deliver positive environmental impact is driven by a wide range of plans and policies. These inform how we deliver our services, duties and the use of our powers as a district authority around themes such as Planning and Development and Environmental Protection. We have a range of plans in place that inform our approach in these areas. A number of important new policies are also forthcoming that will also play a key role in how we respond to recycling, resource use, and restoring nature. These include:

In place

Local: ESC lead

- **East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan**
- **Waveney Local Plan (2019), Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2020)**
- **Housing Enabling Strategy**
- **Environmental Guidance Note (Planning)**
- **Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**
- **Healthy Environments SPD**
- **Cycling & Walking Strategy**
- **Historic Environment SPD**
- **North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide**
- **Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy SPD**

Local: ESC support

- **Supporting Neighbourhood Plan development.**

Suffolk / regional

- **The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan**
- **Suffolk Net Zero Carbon Toolkit**

National

- **National Planning Policy Framework**
- **National Policy Statements**
- **The Environment Act**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain**
- **The 25 Year Environment Plan**
- **National Net Zero Strategy**
- **National Design Guide**
- **The Environmental Protection Act 1990**

Emerging

Local: ESC lead

- **Biodiversity net gain monitoring.**
New statutory Biodiversity Duty Actions reporting requirement. This is a requirement of the Environment Act.

Local: ESC support

- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- **Regional Water Resources plans deliver**

National

- **Natural England National Green Infrastructure Framework**

Wider work: How do our Environmental Impact workstreams help deliver other priorities in the 'Our Direction 2028' strategy?

The other priorities in the 'Our Direction 2028' strategic plan have a link with addressing environmental and climate challenges but also opportunities. Other elements of the strategic plan covering environmental impact include:



All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.

- Promote housing developments which enhance wellbeing and protect the environment.
- Add to, improve, and make better use of our housing stock.
- Tackle fuel poverty and support new heating technologies.



Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.

- Ensure our residents can benefit from national infrastructure projects.
- Support businesses to eliminate waste and recycle more.

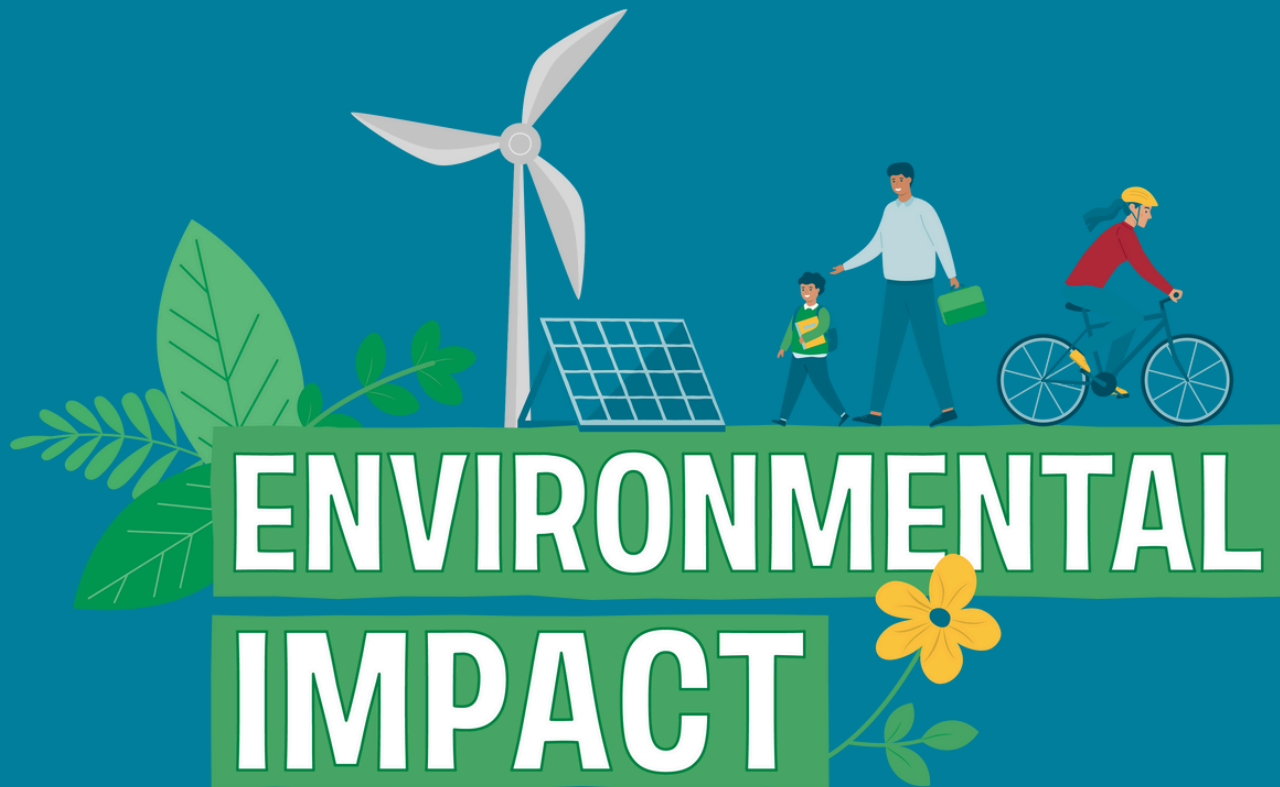
19. Wider Work: What else are we Doing to Deliver Wider Environmental Impact?

In addition to the eight Environmental Impact priorities, we are also delivering a wider range of workstreams delivering wider positive impacts for nature and climate change. These workstreams are summarised below:

Strategic Action Plan Projects		Status
Water management & efficiency	Project with leisure centre operatives to reduce water use. Potential partnership project with water companies to extend to further ESC buildings.	In development
Water quality	Partnership working with organisations addressing water quality and pollution issues impacting rivers across East Suffolk. Includes support of Deben Climate Centre project.	In development
Other key projects / initiatives		
Air quality	Regular programme of air quality monitoring across the district and updated air quality strategy.	Ongoing
Green finance	Our finance team utilises a Barclays 'Green Deposit Account'. Barclays use these accounts to support 'green' projects including sustainable energy and sustainable small businesses, ensuring the public funds under our management are used for public good.	Ongoing
Procurement	Finalising and embedding a new Procurement Strategy, including key sustainability criteria.	In development
ICT	Paperless office transition continuing. Continued support of hybrid and remote working.	Ongoing
Sustainable offices	Ongoing programme of building and site sustainability audits conducted and actions delivered.	Ongoing
Working with developers	Council Development Engagement Group: Promote community pride in homes and neighbourhoods, plus ensure local plans work for local people.	Ongoing

Toolkit:

How are we delivering the plan?



20. Working with Other Authorities to Tackle the Big Challenges

Delivering the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

East Suffolk Council have been working with other authorities since 2007 as part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. In 2019, all Suffolk authorities declared a climate emergency and a net zero target of 2030 was set. The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group (SPSL) gave approval to develop the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, which was published in 2021. SPSL then approved a £1.5m programme of work to tackle the climate emergency in Suffolk, which is now being delivered.

 [The public Suffolk Climate Emergency dashboard is published online here](#)

Governance of Suffolk-level programme

Delivery of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan is overseen and monitored by six separate groups which include the elected Members, Council Leaders and CEOs, key Officers and representatives of other public and voluntary organisations.

East Suffolk Council both co-funds and is actively helping to deliver this programme of projects on the ground. It is particularly important for addressing challenges where East Suffolk Council may not have the powers, duties or resources to deliver by itself, but which are crucial for addressing the climate emergency. Core workstreams include:

Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan workstreams	Current projects
Low carbon transport	Improving public transport services, enabling more walking and cycling, supporting EV charging network development.
Sustainable homes	The Warmer Homes initiative for lower energy use for vulnerable households and the solar together scheme for those able to invest in their own measures.
Industrial & commercial energy use	Net Zero Business Advice Service, working with big emitters to support their decarbonisation programmes, such as utilities and manufacturing.
Cleaner power	Assisting with the delivery of consented major renewable energy projects and local solutions such as community and district heating networks.
Cross sector collaboration	Partnership working with health, education and other public authorities to ensure the climate transition is fair, inclusive and equitable.

 [Further details on our work with other groups across Suffolk to deliver the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan can be found here](#)

This table highlights some of our workstreams delivering Environmental Impact by working with partners across Suffolk:

Environmental Impact Priorities	Enabling: External workstreams
1.Continued commitment to net zero by 2030	Supporting the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan delivery and 2030 net zero ambition for the county. Membership of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, delivering projects such as Suffolk Solar Together.
2. Supporting sustainable transport	Supporting Transport East's Decarbonisation programme and Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's low carbon mobility projects e.g. supporting EV charger network development.
3. Restoring ecosystems and biodiversity	Supporting the Greenprint forum, informing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (emerging).
4. Support, promote and implement green tech	Warmer homes, solar together, home energy advice services and loans.
5. Work in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience	Suffolk Coast Forum, Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, catchment management plans, partnership working with North Norfolk District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Supporting the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership
6. Focus on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials	Membership of Suffolk Waste Partnership and associated campaigns.
7. Encourage food self-sufficiency	Supporting community food growing initiatives across the district.
8. Preserve and maintain the district's beauty and heritage	Working with energy companies to minimise the impact of consented nationally significant energy and infrastructure projects.

21. Enabling Community Action

The Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network, facilitated by East Suffolk Council, to help deliver their business plan; specifically enabling community environmental action to improve lives and strengthen our economy.

The purpose of the Greenprint Forum is to connect and support community, organisational champions, youth champions and elected representatives to enable them to help the people of east Suffolk work together to improve our quality of life and living standards, whilst reducing our environmental impact.

We do this by facilitating discussions, providing training, organising events and linking research to need and where need is identified helping to draw in resources to enable action. These will be specifically related to taking forward our nine goals.

The Greenprint Forum's important work also helps support the delivery of our environment core programme, plus the wider Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan in addition to the independent work of its member groups and organisations.

➡ [Further information on the Forum's activities can be found on our website here](#)

Continuing to support the important work of Town and Parish Councils across the District is also key to delivering the aims of this strategy across the range of priorities.



22. Communications and Engagement

Engaging and communicating with our residents that live and work in East Suffolk is an important part of enabling and empowering others to take positive action on climate change.

Our communications team have a programme of regular activities related to energy, waste and the environment. These use a range of channels, from social media, events, press communications and publications such as the East Suffolk magazine.

➡ [We also have a wide range of resources on our climate mini-site here](#)

Teams across our service areas also engage with communities across East Suffolk to connect them with local support, services and funding to help respond to climate change. These include:

- Coastal Partnership East working directly with communities at risk of flooding & coastal erosion.
- The Warmer Homes team connecting residents with property energy retrofit grants and support.
- We published our [Environmental Guidance Note](#) to offer clear, concise information on a range of key environmental issues relating to the building industry.
- Our Communities Team support local groups delivering climate change projects and restoring nature.
- Working as part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership on larger communication campaigns, such as promoting the 'Solar Together' scheme to support homeowners to install their own solar panels.
- Supporting the Greenprint Forum to cascade information throughout the network and showcase good practice to inspire replication of what communities can deliver themselves.

➡ [See more of our activities in our news archive here](#)



Population of
around
250373



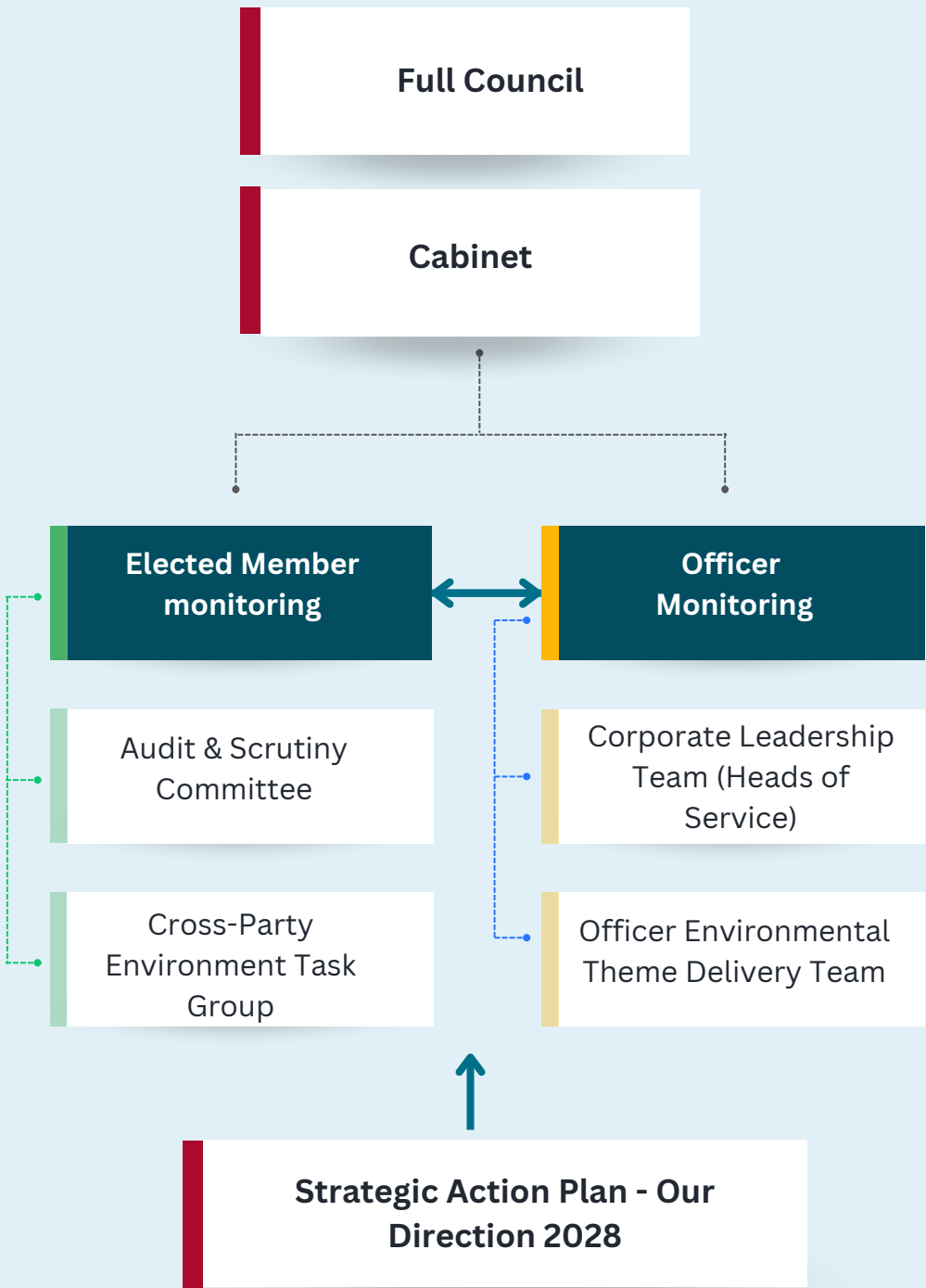
23. Governance & Monitoring

Monitoring of the delivery of the Environmental Impact priorities is delivered by the Cross-party Environment Task Group and Officer Environmental Impact Delivery Group. Both groups are placed with the wider democratic and corporate structure of East Suffolk Council.

The **Environment Task Group** is made up of cross-party Members and receives updates from officers on progress and plans to deliver the Environmental Impact priorities. It can also make recommendations to Cabinet. It provides a regular updates to Cabinet on progress.

The Officer **Environmental Impact Delivery Group** is comprised of officers leading the delivery of the Environmental Impact priorities, supporting delivery and assisting with barriers preventing progress.

Portfolio Holders also play a key role in overseeing and guiding how these workstreams are delivering the administration’s priorities, on behalf of our communities.



24. Strategic Action Plan – Our Direction 2028

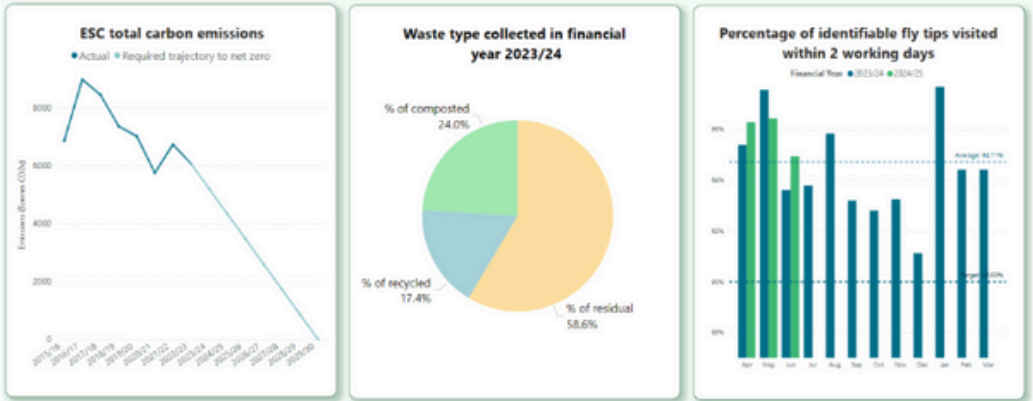
The Strategic Action Plan - Our Direction 2028 is a summary of how we are delivering to all of the Our Direction 2028 Themes, presented as a theme per page, including the development of the new KPI dashboard to measure our delivery against each theme.



Delivering positive climate, nature, and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and the actions we take

Objectives

EI01	Continued commitment to net zero by 2030
EI02	Supporting sustainable transport
EI03	Restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
EI04	Support, promote and implement green tech
EI05	Work in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience
EI06	Focus on reduction, re-use, and recycling of materials
EI07	Encourage food self-sufficiency
EI08	Preserve and maintain the districts beauty and heritage



Key Performance Indicators	
ESC total carbon emissions progress to net zero	Annually
Recycling and composting percentage	Quarterly
Residual waste per household	Quarterly
Fly tipping Percentage of identifiable fly tips responded to within 2 days	Monthly
Fly tipping total actions and incidents by ward	Monthly
Additional KPIs in development	
Waste Contamination rates	Quarterly
Biodiversity Net Gain metrics from Planning perspective	Monthly
Planning functions such as Conservation Area, Listed Buildings, TPOs	
Litter and Street Cleansing	
Community Transport take up	

Strategic Action Plan
Enable a programme of Leisure Centre de-carbonisation to reduce environmental impacts of leisure centres by 2027
Deliver the ESSL Improvement Plan to achieve benefits in how we deliver waste services including waste rounds re-routing 2024-2027 ^(OF)
Deliver the Cycling & Walking Strategy 2025 and funding to achieve best impact
Lead the Buzzabout & Katch community transport pilots and deliver options for community transport during 2024/25 ^(TI)
Embed the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain through the Planning process during 2024/25
Review and rebrand the ‘Pardon the Weeds’ campaign and identify additional land and projects during 2024/25
Continue to ensure that we work in the interest of all communities to mitigate the impacts and maximise the benefits of Energy Related NSIPs
Supporting local communities to adapt and thrive in the face of a changing climate
Implement Simpler Recycling strategy including initiatives to support behaviour change and influence enhanced recycling rates by March 2026
Deliver the field to fork programme including growing spaces and growing kits during 2024/25 ^(TI)
Deliver initiatives to improve cleanliness and environmental enhancement across the district, stimulate and support community activity and improve civic pride under the East Suffolk’s Amazing initiative
Work with partners to develop approaches to improving water quality and water management
Empowering local organisations to deliver environmental initiatives
Deliver Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) to implement agreed initiatives

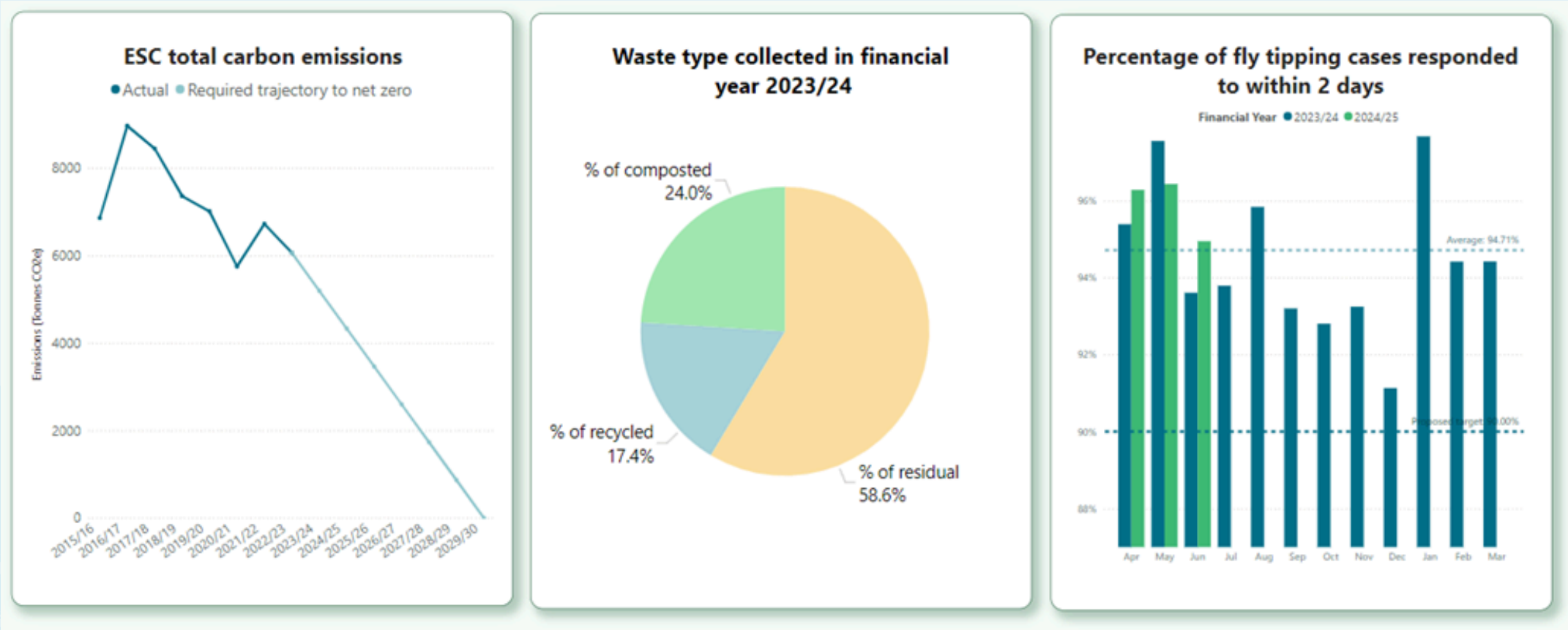
Please note there are projects featuring in other Theme Action Plans which also contribute to the Environmental Impact theme due to its cross-cutting nature, these will be referenced **(EI)**.

25. Transparency: The ESC Environmental Impact KPI Dashboard

Our evolving environment KPI dashboard tracks the progress of all of our environment theme core programme key areas, including activities related to climate change.

The dashboard is published publicly on the East Suffolk Council website and updated regularly.

The new live KPI dashboard will be available online later in 2024.



26. Updates for Next Version

The following additions are planned for the next iteration of this strategy.

Item to be added / referenced	Target date
Updated risk matrix to be included	November 2025
KPI dashboard update to be included	November 2025
Updated ESC Net Zero plan	January 2025
ESC EV charging infrastructure Plan	January 2025