

Climate Change Initial Action Plan:

SEP 2021 – MAR 2023



Climate Change Action Plan: September 2021 – March 2023

The Climate Change Action Plan builds upon many years of work already undertaken and reductions in emissions already achieved. It sets out our areas of focus in each of the work streams from the Climate Change Strategy to identify how we will deliver our objectives.

The Action Plan will be a living document and we will revise our plans as the climate and environmental emergency develops, targets are met, funding becomes available and new technologies emerge.

At this stage there are a number of TBC's in this action plan. This is because the carbon impact and full costs of delivering the actions has not been fully quantified. Further, detailed work is required in order to produce a more definite assessment of the carbon reduction of each action within the plan. In an attempt to provide a high-level estimation, a carbon impact and cost scale has been incorporated into the plan. This method will help identify those actions that are likely to have the highest carbon reduction contribution and also those actions that will be more complex to quantify for various reasons. The carbon impact will be updated with specific figures as and when further work is undertaken and they can be calculated more accurately.

This plan includes actions which the Council will lead, as well as those in partnership with others. It includes campaigns which will support change across the District and projects where the Council may be the catalyst or broker to enable and facilitate activity.

Timescale	Council Role	Indicative Costs	Potential Carbon impact of Council Projects
Short Term – 2021 to 2023	D - Deliver	£ - Low - between £0 and £25,000	Low – less than 0.5% reduction in Councils own emissions
Medium Term – 2021 to 2026	E – Enable and Facilitate	££ - Medium - between £25,000 and £100,000	Medium - up to 5% reduction in Councils own emissions
Long Term – 2021 to 2030	S – Support and Encourage	£££ - High - between £100,000 and £250,000	High – over 5% reduction in Councils own emissions
Ongoing – Actions that will continue through the life of the strategy	P - Partnership	££££ - Very High - Over £250,000	NB – District Wide reduction measures and methods still to be calculated

Resources

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Conserve our Natural Resources					
Continue with campaigns to raise the profile of local food producers by promoting shop local and seasonal foods including plant based substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of produce that can be sourced locally and the benefits of buying seasonal produce and swapping to plant based produce Increased support for local businesses 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S
Work with partners to offer a subsidised water butt scheme to encourage residents to use rainfall rather than tap water to sustain their plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the use of water 	Short Term	£	Low	P
Create a learning and development programme for staff and members to increase their awareness on climate change and how they can reduce their own carbon emissions and contribute to those that can be achieved corporately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of climate change issues Improved consideration of climate change issues across all services, projects and policies 	Short Term	£	TBC	D
Install water butts in our cemeteries to capture rainfall run off from cemetery chapels and other buildings for use by visitors bringing floral tributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the use of water from the standpipes 	Short Term	£	Low	D
Review the Councils sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen the procurement process ensuring environmental considerations are made when procuring goods and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement specifications developed that supports carbon reduction and sustainability. Council is more aware of the environmental credentials of the contractors it works with Encourage more businesses to consider climate change credentials 	Medium Term	£	Medium	D
Explore the feasibility of re-using waste water from the depot to fill the water tanks on the street sweepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the use of water 	Medium Term	£	Low	D

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Reduce Waste, Increase Recycling					
Work with the Essex Recycling Forum and the Essex Waste Partnership on Countywide campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to reduce their waste and to maximise recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of total waste collected Reduction in tonnage of residual waste and increase in percentage of waste recycled 	Ongoing	££	TBC	P
Review the waste management service to identify future working models and respond to the outcomes of the Environment Bill, including impacts on kerbside collections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 10 year waste strategy developed. Improved service delivery model implemented providing more sustainable ways of working. Reduce residual waste and increase recycling Ensure outcomes of the Environment Bill are understood and fed into the service review of the waste management service 	Short Term	££ Implementation likely to be ££££	TBC	D/P
Reduce use of non-renewable resources					
Develop a District wide campaign to encourage residents to reduce the use of plastics and non-sustainable packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in waste collected 	Short Term	£	TBC	S
Consider options to increase public access to drinking water to reduce single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the use of single use plastics 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P
Research opportunities around using waste collected from dog waste bins and other sources as either a fertiliser or fuel source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce energy from non-renewable sources 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	D

Energy Conservation

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Reduce energy use and improve energy efficient infrastructure					
Switch the Councils energy use to non-fossil fuel green energy tariffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions 	Short Term	£	High	D
Explore opportunities to purchase batteries to store electricity/ energy to supply back to our buildings or sell back to the National Grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption 	Short Term	££	High	P
Switch all BDC public lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights on a like for like replacement basis and work with parish councils to replace any parish council owned street lights when they need replacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption 	Short Term	££	Medium	D/P
Increase energy efficiency and renewable technologies across Council equipment, assets and estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions Reduction in energy used Reduction in energy costs 	Long Term	££	Medium/ High	D
Increase the proportion of energy derived from renewable sources					
Continue to research and evaluate ultra-low emission alternatives for the Council's fleet of vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to reduce the impact of the Council's impact on emissions 	Short Term (Med Term implementation)	£ implementation ££££	High	D
Consider use of robust certified carbon credit schemes to offset any residual organisation emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Carbon Impact of organisation 	Long Term	£	TBC	P

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Improve energy performance of existing housing stock					
Continue to work with partners to address the complex challenge of fuel poverty through targeted campaigns and signposting to grant funding and areas of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in fuel poverty have access to affordable, low carbon warmth. • Improved energy efficiency in homes and reduced costs for residents • Reduction in CO₂ emissions 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	P
Continue with campaigns providing information to residents on saving energy measures to help reduce emissions, including promotion of retrofit schemes for homeowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District emissions reduced. • Campaigns successfully delivered. • Increase in residents sign posted to grants 	Ongoing	£	TBC	D

Built Environment

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Reduce the carbon impact and improve biodiversity of new developments					
Continue to emphasise climate change and the requirements around carbon reduction and renewables in Neighbourhood Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness and consideration of Climate Change issues for those developing Neighbourhood Plans 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S
Promote sustainable materials for new constructions based on the BREEAM* tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced environmental impact of new builds Reduced CO₂ emissions from new developments 	Short Term	£	TBC	P
Review changes in national planning policies that may help shape and enforce energy efficiency improvements in buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies implemented and considered for new planning applications Reduced CO₂ emissions from new developments 	Short Term	£	TBC	D
Create and adopt new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) on sustainability and carbon reduction, including waste management, biodiversity gain, encouraging developers to exceed targets and build sustainable, resilient and efficient new homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementary Planning Document adopted and used as a material planning consideration Positive impact on biodiversity from new developments Reduced CO₂ emissions from new developments 	Short Term	£	TBC	D
Develop a Planning Sustainability check list for use by officers, members and town/parish councils when reviewing planning applications to ensure climate change is taken into consideration by decision makers of all new planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve framework, ensuring that climate change issues are effectively considered at planning stage 	Short Term	£	TBC	P
Develop an environmental assets map to understand the potential locations of positive environmental assets moving forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase knowledge of environmental assets to better understand opportunities Market the District to build the green economy 	Short Term	££	TBC	D

*Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method.

A sustainability assessment method that is used to master plan projects infrastructure and buildings

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Support the transition to sustainable heating sources in new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced CO₂ emissions from new developments 	Medium Term	£	TBC	S
Review and evaluate the potential of an offset fund (106 agreements) or allowable solutions mechanism for developers to pay into when a certain high level of energy efficiency of buildings is not able to be met in the development and use this money for carbon saving projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO₂ impact of new developments 	Long Term	TBC	TBC	D
Reduce household water consumption and maximise installation of sustainable drainage systems, water reuse and grey water harvesting technologies					
Work with ECC to ensure that all new development sites have sufficient “green/blue” infrastructure to mitigate flooding through the Sustainable Urban Drainage System Strategies submitted at Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced risk of flooding in new developments 	Medium Term	£	TBC	P
Reduce energy use in existing households by retrofitting energy efficiency measures					
Continue to signpost owners of traditional or listed buildings to advice and assistance on energy saving measures and improved sustainability that will avoid causing harm to the building and surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced CO₂ emissions from homes Reduced cost of energy for residents 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S
Work with registered housing providers and registered landlords to progressively increase the energy efficiency of social housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced CO₂ emissions from homes Reduced cost of energy for residents 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S

Transport

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Grow electric vehicle charging network and infrastructure areas					
Continue with the installation of electric charging points in the Council's car parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Council owned car parks fitted with EV charging points. Improved infrastructure and accessibility for customers with EV's using our car parks. 	Short Term	££ (Some gov funding and external investment)	Low	D
Support ECC to continue to build up the on-street charging infrastructure across our District for electric vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging 	Medium Term	TBC	TBC	P
Improve digital connectivity to reduce work travel demand					
Work with partners to improve the digital connectivity across the District enabling people to work from home more and travel less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase coverage across the District and work with digital suppliers to achieve digital connectivity in any gaps. 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P
Increase cycling and walking in the District					
Continue to work with LiveWell partners to encourage people to get active and walk more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO₂ emissions from travel 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	S
In partnership with Essex County Council, consider pilot school street schemes to reduce the number of vehicles travelling into school streets during school drop off and pick up times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce congestion around schools Reduce car journeys to and from school Reduce CO₂ emissions from travel Increase cycling and walking opportunities 	Short Term	£	Low	S
Working in partnership, deliver the actions of our cycling strategy and promote walking and cycling throughout the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase cycling across the District 	Short Term	£	TBC	S

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Encourage greener transport choices					
Continue with campaigns to reduce engine idling targeting specific high traffic areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions Improvement in air quality 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	S
Review the Councils Travel Plan to ensure it continues to promote sustainable travel to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions Reduction in fuel costs Reduction in journeys 	Short Term	£	Low	S
Consider introducing differential parking charges in council owned car parks for low emission vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage use of low emission vehicles 	Short Term	£	TBC	S
Work with Essex County Council to improve the quality and availability of low carbon public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in use of more sustainable travel options Reduced CO₂ emissions from public transport 	Medium Term	£	TBC	S
Review the Council's Driver and Vehicle Standards and Policies to create a greener fleet of taxis in the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in CO₂ emissions from taxi fleet and pollution Reduction in fuel costs from taxi fleet. 	Medium Term	£	TBC	D

Businesses and the Green Economy

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Developing the Green Economy					
Work with Essex County Council and other service providers to identify opportunities to develop low carbon skills, education, training and employment opportunities and support ECC Centre of Excellence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employability of our residents in the green economy and advanced manufacturing to help improve the productivity in the production of goods and services that support the sustainable agenda • Attract new business in the green economy and encourage green sector companies to cluster in the North Essex local economy • Increase overall awareness of climate change issues and how to tackle them 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P
Work with partners to maximise the impact that that I-Construct brings to the construction sector and its supply chain, championing modern design and construction methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon from construction process and new developments • Increased sustainability in design of new buildings • Develop our green economy 	Long Term	TBC	TBC	P
Work with landowners, DEFRA and ECC to encourage sustainable land stewardship practices on land across the District, including rewilding and tree planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Biodiversity of farmland • Improve carbon capture and carbon storage of farmland • Improve water quality • Reduce carbon use through fewer artificial inputs 	Long Term	TBC	TBC	S
Encourage businesses to reduce waste					
Improve engagement and communication with businesses within the District to improve their participation in recycling and waste minimisation, including working with manufacturers to support the reduction of packaging and make products more re-usable and recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase engagement and participation of businesses in recycling and minimising their waste • Overall reduction in waste produced • Increased percentage of waste recycled 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	S

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Encourage businesses to reduce energy use					
Continue to encourage businesses to switch to ECO heating and reduce energy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of referrals to support and take up of funding. Reduction in energy use 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S
Continue to promote carbon footprint tools to businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements identified and implemented by businesses to reduce carbon impact 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	S
Provide support to businesses across the District on the development and implementation of green travel plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of businesses implementing a green travel plan Reduction in CO₂ emissions from travel 	Ongoing	£	TBC	S
Introduce a Climate Change/Green Environmental Accreditation Scheme or Business Award scheme to recognise and showcase initiatives that can be adopted as best practice and to encourage businesses to become carbon neutral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of opportunities to become carbon neutral Increased sharing and recognition of best practice across businesses 	Medium Term	££	TBC	D/P
Encourage businesses to build resilience					
Collaborate with the voluntary sector and business sector across Essex to share learning, data, best practice and, to look at joint initiatives to tackle climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully sharing knowledge and resources to increase our opportunities to collaborate for grant funding Reduction in carbon impact of businesses and voluntary sector organisations 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	S

Natural Environment

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Improve biodiversity and green spaces					
Continue to deliver campaigns to support a reduction in littering and fly-tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in fly-tips Reduction in littering Cleaner District 	Ongoing	£	Low	S
Complete our trial of alternative weed control methods other than the use of chemicals in Council operations that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial completed evaluating relevant alternative methods of weed control introduced. Reduce environmental impact of weed control 	Short Term	££	Low	D
Develop a Local Nature Recovery Plan to identify actions needed to restore declining species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan established to address the practical actions needed to restore declining species and habitats and a healthy natural environment where our plants and animals can thrive 	Short Term	££	TBC	D/P
Plant wildflower areas across the District, including mixture of ornamental and native wildflowers and areas which are left with minimal maintenance to increase bio-diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District 	Short Term	£	Low	D
Reduce the number of cuts to rural verges across the District (Subject to outcome of recent trials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District 	Short Term	Saving	Low	P
Work with ECC and Housing Associations to increase biodiversity by reviewing maintenance regimes, refine grass cutting, consider more sustainable planting schemes consistent with the highest biodiversity standards and promote rewilding/naturalisation of areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Explore opportunities to use council owned land to develop community orchards and community gardens (to grow veg or fruit),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase biodiversity • Improve attractiveness of district • Increase opportunities for communities to grow fruit and veg • Increase community engagement in enhancement of local areas 	Medium Term	TBC	TBC	P
Improve air quality					
Review our current air quality monitoring to ensure that it continues to monitor high risk pollutants and locations and take appropriate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continued effectiveness of air quality monitoring 	Short Term	££	TBC	D
Increase tree and shrub planting					
Develop a community tree and bulb planting scheme to support community groups, town and parish councils to increase tree and bulb planting across the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of trees and shrubs planted across the District. • Increase engagement from communities in their local area • Increase publically accessible woodland 	Short Term	££	TBC	P
Identify opportunities to plant trees on Council owned land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of trees and shrubs planted across the District on Council land. • Increase publically accessible woodland 	Short Term	££	TBC	D
Improve water quality, flood resilience and habitat					
Work with the Environment Agency/Anglia/Essex Suffolk on the management of watercourses to enhance their flow and storage capacity and deliver wider biodiversity benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water quality • Improve biodiversity • Reduce flooding 	Medium Term	TBC	TBC	P

Adapting to Climate Change

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Support communities to improve resilience					
Continue to provide advice for residents on how to reduce health risks during severe weather events such as heatwaves/extreme cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased accessible information available to residents on health risks from climate change Increased resilience of communities to climate change 	Ongoing	£	Low	S
Work with Town and Parish Councils to develop their emergency plans, ensuring the plans reflect the changing risks of their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of Parish and Town Council with Emergency plans developed. Successful collaboration on climate emergency related areas of work Increased resilience to climate change impacts in our communities 	Ongoing	£	Low	S
Improve flood alleviation for community areas that flood					
Work with Essex County Council and other partners to manage climate change-related flood risks and mitigate the number of homes and businesses across the District that are exposed to the risk of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in flood risk Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change 	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	P
Lobby Government to increase the funding available for flood risk management to meet the growing need for action especially around surface water flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in flood risk Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P
Work with partners to open up main rivers and create wetlands, natural flood defences and urban drainage, as supported by the Local Plan and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water quality Improve biodiversity Reduce flooding 	Short Term	TBC	TBC	P

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Increase drought mitigation for the District					
Ensure that planting in open space owned or managed by the council is drought resistant and requires less watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase sustainability of planting schemes and resilience to climate change impacts Reduce use of water 	Short Term	£	Low	D
Maintain emergency plans for the District					
Update the Councils Climate impact risk assessment and integrate risk mitigation into service business plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks 	Short Term	£	Low	D
Regularly review and test the Council's emergency plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks 	Short Term	£	Low	D
Work with Essex Resilience Forum (ERF) and other partners to review and test plans and respond to emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks 	Short Term	£	Low	P
Prevent the impacts of climate change disproportionately harming the most vulnerable					
Monitor and seek to mitigate emerging risks and their impact on vulnerable people in the community with ERF partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased resilience of communities to climate change impacts 	Ongoing	TBC	Low	P

Delivery and Monitoring

Action	Outcome	Timescale	Funding	Carbon Impact	Role
Validate our action plan in respect of current actions and look to strengthen the medium term and longer term actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan receives external validation on the actions it is taking to achieve net zero and the support it is providing across the District to residents, communities and businesses. 	Short Term	££	N/A	D
Create a communication plan to promote and raise awareness of the Climate Change strategy and action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication plan developed. Monitoring and reporting plan developed and timetable for reporting on progress established. 	Short Term	£	N/A	D
Develop a monitoring and reporting plan to track the progress of the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing regular updates on progress against our actions 	Short Term	£	N/A	D
Collaborate with other Authorities across Essex to share learning, data, best practice and, increase access to grant funding bids for environmental projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully sharing knowledge and resources to increase our opportunities to collaborate Increase access and opportunities for grant funding 	Short Term	£	N/A	D
Develop a sustainability and carbon reduction tool to assess the environmental impact on projects undertaken by the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due consideration given of the environmental impacts and/or carbon emissions from projects and how they can be reduced. Overall Council emissions reduced 	Short Term	£	N/A	D
Support national campaigns and use these to promote our campaigns and take action where we can to increase engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align to national days of action to reinforce the message of collective action 	Short Term	£	N/A	S
Ensure relevant internal strategies and policy documents are reviewed and amended to embed the work of the Council in its commitment to tackling climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All strategies and policies are reviewed and updated to take climate change impacts into account 	Medium Term	£	N/A	D



Braintree District Council
Causeway House
Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

www.braintree.gov.uk
csc@braintree.gov.uk
01376 552525

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