

Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy



Lewes District Council

- Carbon Emissions Report
- Strategy Update



November 2022

Lewes District Council Climate Change & Sustainability Update

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1. Introduction

This is the second annual update of our Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan first published in February 2021.

Current CO₂ levels are the highest they have been at any time in the last 2 million years and by 2040 temperature rises of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels are expected according to the latest global assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

We are already feeling the consequences of these rises with increased extreme heat, more intense and frequent rainfall and flooding, sea level rise and more drought and wildfires like the ones experienced over the summer.

The 3rd UK Annual Climate Risk Assessment produced in the run up to COP 26 in November 2021 outlined the significant risks that the UK still faces with threats to infrastructure and communities and especially to our terrestrial, freshwater and marine landscapes and wildlife.

We made it clear with the Climate Emergency motion in 2019 and our Corporate Strategy that we believe tackling climate change is our most important issue as it threatens vulnerable communities the most with impacts on the costs of living such as higher fuel and food costs, housing not suited to changing climates and health impacts from extreme heat and poor air quality.

Not only are the climate and ecological emergencies inextricably linked but so too are the links between poverty and climate change.

The local [climate films](#) we commissioned from Brighton Film School as part of COP26 last year demonstrate how local communities are both impacted by and reacting to the pressures brought about by climate change.

We were instrumental in bringing about a partnership which recently secured £2.04million of National Lottery funding to support climate change projects along the Ouse Valley catchment. The **Ouse Valley Climate Action** project is one of the most important climate initiatives to have taken place in Lewes District and I am really looking forward to the many important community climate actions which will arise from this work over the next 3 years.

Many residents and communities are rightly concerned about the state of our water supplies and the effects that this is having on our rivers and coasts. We share these concerns and in addition to the two motions on water quality passed at Council in the last 2 years we have been working hard to both hold water companies and regulators to account as well as proactively doing what we can to manage water run off through natural flood management for example. The **'Sussex Flow Initiative'** is a great example of our partnership approach to managing flood risk on the Ouse and **'Catching the Storm'** is another fantastic example of schools responding positively to flood risk.

We supported a local community group who put on a **River Festival** in October which attracted over 1500 people and involved a number of local organisations including Southern Water to both challenge and discuss the state of our precious river which from source to sea.

Work is underway to bolster our sea defences with the work being carried in Peacehaven and we will continue to work with others to manage the risks our coastal communities face.

Our Waste and Recycling Fleet are a major part of our corporate CO₂ emissions and we have set out a cost-effective and phased approach that will see our fleet move towards to carbon net zero by 2030. The rural nature of our District makes electric charging more challenging and hydrogen technology has some way to go but we have brought in electric vehicles where we can and with the new electric charging points we are working on expected to be rolled out across the District during Spring 2023, a fully decarbonised fleet is not too far away.

The cost of living challenges we face are enormous and we are clear that decarbonising our social housing stock and looking for ways to support the retrofitting of our private housing stock especially in rural areas is vital. We will continue to support projects like **Communiheat** and support a local supply chain that can install local retrofitting measures.

I welcome the partnership approach of the Local **Emergency Food Network** and the move towards more sustainable models of tackling food poverty but the fact that there is a need for such a partnership in the first place is a sad reflection of the national social injustices we face.

We are currently facing an insecure future with a lack of clarity surrounding environmental protections and recently the flip-flopping on plans to allow fracking.

Whilst I'm faintly hopeful that the scale of change needed to ensure our climate resilience will be made at a national and global level in forums like COP 27, I am confident that at the local level we and our communities are doing all we can to ensure a carbon net zero and climate resilient district.



Matthew Bird- Lead Cabinet Member for Sustainability

2. Evidence base update

Climate Risks

In June 2021 the UK's Climate Change Committee published the Adaptation Committee's Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk. The priority climate change risks are summarised briefly below and the summary for England can be found here: <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCRA-Evidence-Report-England-Summary-Final.pdf>

A useful animation to explain this report can be found at: <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/newsroom/animation-independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/>

Adaptation action has failed to keep up with the worsening reality of climate risk

- The gap between the level of risk we face and the level of adaptation underway has widened.
- The UK has the capacity and resources to respond effectively but has not yet done so.
- Acting now will be cheaper than dealing with the consequences later.
- Eight risk areas require urgent attention
 - Risks to viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats & species
 - Risks to soil health from flooding and drought
 - Risks to natural carbon stores (such as soil and woodland)
 - Risks to crops, livestock & commercial trees
 - Risks to supply of food, goods and services due to collapse of supply chains & distribution networks
 - Risks related to failure of the power system
 - Risks to health from heat
 - Multiple risks to the UK from impacts occurring overseas

Mitigation

The Climate Action Tracker (<https://climateactiontracker.org>) is a useful tool to track 39 government's climate actions and measures against the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It quantifies and evaluates mitigation targets, policies and action.

The UK Government's evaluation is summarised as 'Almost Sufficient'. The net zero target by 2050 is evaluated to be acceptable though the current policies and action mean that **the UK is not on track to meet its target**. The UK's country summary can be found here:

<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/uk/>

Adaptation

The main update this year to our national and global evidence base is that of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II report on the assessment of the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change. [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#).

Key notes from this report:

The extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger than estimated in previous assessments.

- Climate change has caused substantial damages, and increasingly irreversible losses
- Hundreds of local losses of species have been driven by increases in the magnitude of heat extremes. Some losses are already irreversible.
- Climate change including increases in frequency and intensity of extremes, have reduced food and water security, hindering efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- There are increasing negative impacts on the health and well-being of our societies, increasing damage to infrastructure due to flooding and storms as well as increasing damage to key economic sectors across Europe.
- Overall negative impacts are outweighing positive gains as a result of the changing climate.
- Global warming, reaching 1.5°C in the near term (2021-2040), would cause unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans.
- Near-term actions that limit global warming to close to 1.5°C would substantially reduce projected losses and damages related to climate change in human systems and ecosystems but cannot eliminate them all.

2. Lewes District Council Carbon Emissions Report

This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial year 2021/22 along with a comparison of previous years with the baseline 2018/19

2.1 Methodology

We have calculated the baseline using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol methodology and the appropriate annual conversion factors for each year issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). By using this method and these figures, we are ensuring that the baseline emissions we measure can be reported accurately every year to 2030 using a peer reviewed and agreed process.

Lewes District Council generally uses the 'operational control' approach to define the organisational boundary and to inform the emissions inventory boundary described in the table below.

It should be noted however that with regards to metered gas and electricity, all sites, regardless of who operates the site, are considered to be in scope 1 or 2 if the council is responsible for paying the bills (even if these costs are re-charged to the lessee) AND for fully maintaining the premises. Where these conditions are not met the sites will sit within scope 3, for example Wave Leisure facilities.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions form the organisational baseline and are considered to be directly controllable by the Council.

Category	Description	Data used in this analysis
Scope 1	Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by Lewes District Council	Metered gas data (for buildings where the Council pay the gas bills) Litres of fuel consumed for fleet vehicles
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased by Lewes District Council	Metered electricity data (for buildings where the Council pay the electricity bills)
Scope 3	Indirect emissions that result from other activities that occur in the value chain, either upstream or downstream.	As per table 3.

2.2 Data summary & review

April 2018 to March 2022

Please note: there was an error in the 2020/21 electricity figures so the tables and graphs have been corrected below

Our total emissions have reduced by 9.5% since 2018/19.

Council emissions are reported using the grid standard electricity factor. This is because our electricity supply is a REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin) certificate backed renewable supply and although our supplier insists we can claim this as zero carbon at actual point of use we are using the grid standard electricity mix and it is best practice and a requirement of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol to report this. Table 1 has been updated and the impact can be seen in graph 1.

There has been a **further year on year reduction** from fleet emissions and we now have a **12.6% reduction on the baseline** which is largely down to reduced consumption. The next large decrease in fleet emissions will be seen when we transfer to renewable diesel in April 2023- this will see emissions from diesel drop by around 90% for the 2023/24 report year.

There has been an **increase** in our emissions from natural gas consumption of **13.5% on the baseline**, with a small increase on 2020/21. This increase continues to occur in our housing supplies where we have communal heating systems.

Operational building gas consumption has increased since last year but there remains an overall reduction in gas consumption on the baseline.

Electricity emissions have overall reduced by 25% on the baseline - largely due to the increase in renewable within the grid electricity mix. Our consumption has only reduced by 3%. See table 2. We are likely to see electricity consumption increase further in the near future as we begin to electrify some of our fleet.

Graph 2 shows the trends in the source of emissions by scope (gas, electricity, diesel) from 2018 to 2022. Graph 3 shows the same emissions information but breaks it down by operational area. 'Other' supplies emissions are increasing and are likely to increase in the future as we take on more developments and electric vehicle chargepoints. This trend will need monitoring and mitigating. Possibly through an evaluation of our electricity purchasing arrangements and generation capacity.

Table 1. Lewes District Council emissions table

<i>Source of emissions by work area</i>	<i>All scope 1 & 2 emissions (tonnes CO₂e)</i>			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Housing and associated supplies	522	526.3	496.3	504.3
Corporate & Operational Buildings	162	125.6	118	121.5
Fleet vehicles	870.9	790.7	770.8	761.2
Other (Electric Vehicle Charge Points, Public facilities & other business)	34.9	36.3	44.9	52.3
Total	1590	1479	1430	1439

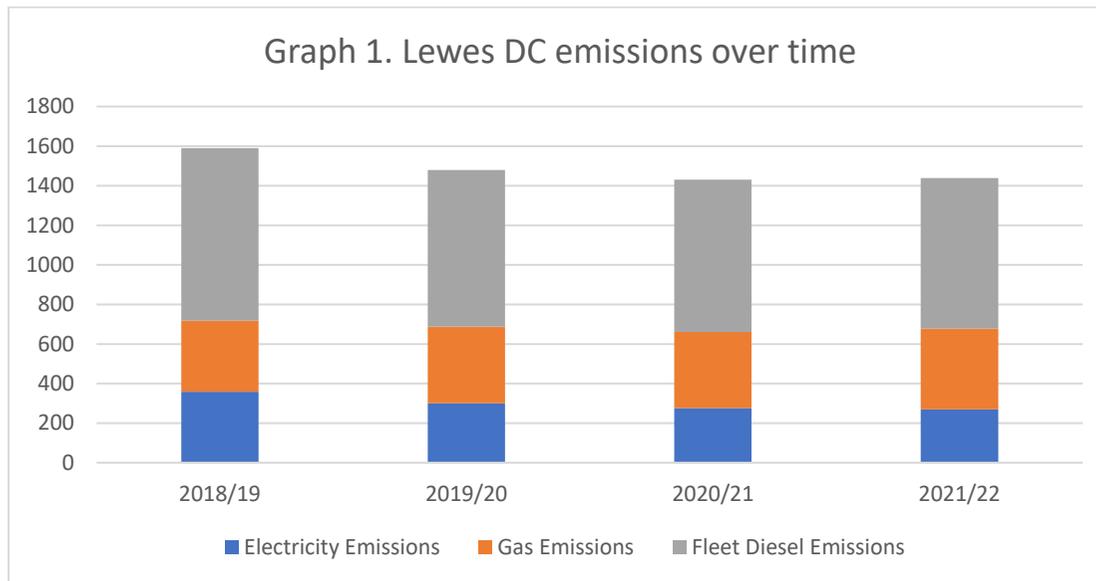
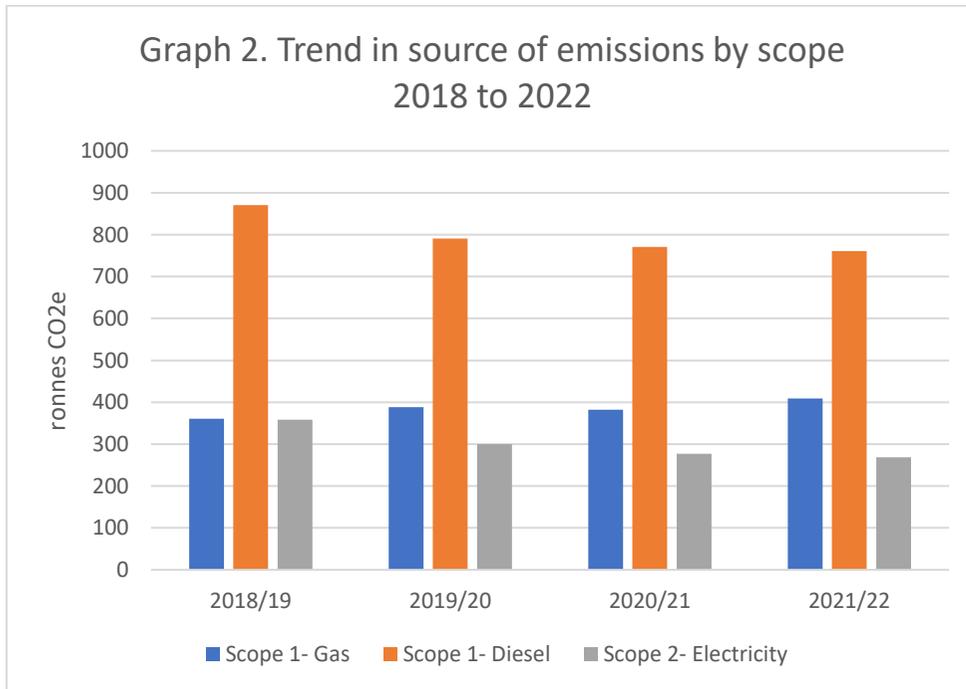
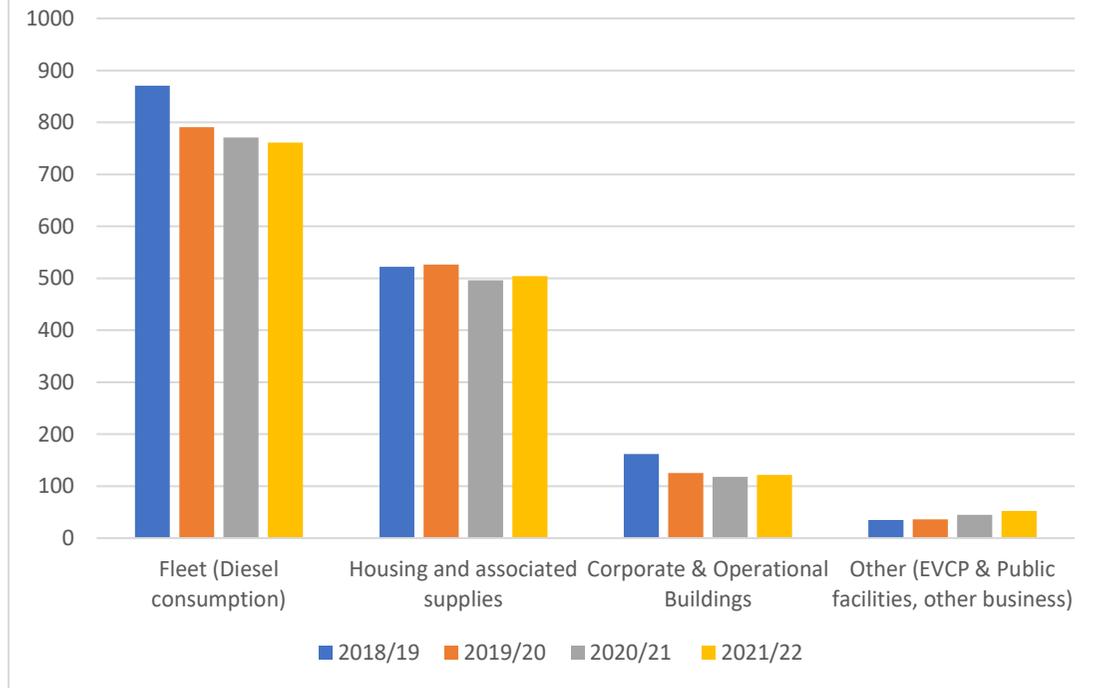


Table 2. Consumption vs emissions trends -21/22 against the baseline 18/19 (actual figures)

	% change in consumption	% change in emissions
Gas	14% increase	14% increase
Diesel	9% decrease	13% decrease
Electricity	3% decrease	25% decrease



Graph 3. Emissions trends by operational source



2.3 Scope 3 emissions

The Council continues to expand upon its Scope 3 emissions reporting. We hoped we may have been able to provide an indication of some emissions based on contract spend however due to being a shared service with Eastbourne Borough Council this is proving more challenging than previously expected. Even if we did report through this method, we would not be able to show any change in emissions through improved specification so reporting of this type has limited benefit.

The Council acknowledges that our greatest source of emissions will be from our purchasing and contracting and continues to improve reporting methods as contracts renew.

Wave Leisure sites have returned to pre-Covid operational levels as much as possible and remain within scope 3 emissions as they pay their own utilities.

Table 3. Scope 3 emissions- tonnes CO2e

Source	Data source and conversion	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Electricity Transmission & Distribution losses	Utilities consumption information	30.52	25.54	23.42	23.78
Water use- supply & treatment	Direct from utility company	N/A	13.9	19.5	9.6
Wave Leisure	Direct from consumption information (water, gas & elec)	953.5	945	365.5	763
Private Business Miles (staff and Cllrs)	Calculated using miles claimed and an average petrol car			28.4	20.00
Councillors- Taxis	'Regular Taxi km' based on spend (average costs)				0.02
Public transport (staff and Cllrs)	Estimated km based on spend (rail assumed)			0.39	0.82
Well to Tank (WTT) diesel fuel emissions	Based on actual consumption			185.3	184.8
Well to tank natural gas	Utilities consumption information			56.51	70
Grounds maintenance contract- fuel (consumption and WTT)	Diesel and unleaded petrol consumption				83.75
Total		984t	984t	679t	1156t

3. Lewes District Carbon Emissions Summary

This section summarises the data available for the entire districts carbon emissions.

15% reduction in district wide emissions between 2018 and 2020 with a 10% reduction from 2019 to 2020 (BEIS data)

Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020
Anthesis District Baseline	458 kt CO ₂ e	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scatter Cities methodology	534 kt CO ₂ e	527.2 kt CO ₂ e	514.8 kt CO ₂ e	Not yet available
BEIS data- UK local authority and regional CO2 emissions – data tables (excel) 'territorial emissions'	Data in CO ₂ e is not available. 391 kt CO ₂	465.2 kt CO ₂ e	437.6 kt CO ₂ e	393.3 kt CO ₂ e

As the data shows above, there is a 15% reduction on the baseline using BEIS figures, however, this is insufficient to meet our carbon budget as determined by the Tyndall Centre- [click here for our summary report](#)

Lewes district should be aiming for a year on year reduction of 13.3% if we are to stay within our carbon budget for 2020-2100.

It needs to be noted that the available district information is not directly comparable with the district baseline produced by Anthesis in 2020 due to variations in calculation methodology and we are unable to exactly reproduce this method ourselves. Therefore we report available information from the Scatter tool (also produced through collaboration by the same consultants Anthesis, Nottingham City Council, the Tyndall Centre and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority with funding from BEIS) for 2017 and compare this with the BEIS data available for local authority areas.

Please note that the BEIS data now includes estimates of methane and nitrous oxide emissions, previously they have only included carbon dioxide emission estimates. In accordance with international reporting and carbon trading protocols, each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP),

so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis in carbon dioxide equivalent units. The figures for 2018 and 2019 have been updated accordingly and are reported above.

Variation between Scatter and BEIS figures are due to variations in methodology and the scopes reported. Scatter is the only method to count some scope 3 indirect emissions, including 'cruise impacts' as a result of aviation (calculated on percentage of population assuming flying is uniformly distributed across the whole population) and waterborne transportation, neither of which are covered in the BEIS data.

4. The Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy -Strategic Action Areas- Update 2022

Summary of progress

The strategy currently contains 86 number of actions across 7 action areas. A summary of work to date across the district is below- please see the full spreadsheet in Appendix 1 for more information of actions within each area.

79% of all actions are currently reported as green (including completions), 13% are amber and 3% (3 actions) are red.

COMMUNITY & DISTRICT WIDE ACTION

Ouse Valley wins £2m funding for Climate Action



When the Council first started to develop its Climate Change Strategy it brought together members of the community and experts from various fields together, to inform and develop the strategic direction that needed to be set to meet our ambition of a net zero district by 2030. The Climate Action Forum and 'Expert Panels' developed new networks within the district that prepared the ground for what would later become the partnership board for Ouse Valley Climate Action. Led by the South Downs National Park, an initial bid was made to the National Lottery to develop a project around the ambitious goal of empowering local people to help create one of the first communities in England to fully embrace climate action.

The East Sussex partnership, which covers 10 organisations including Lewes District Council, and communities in the Ouse Valley are now celebrating after being awarded more than £2m to help make the region a national pioneer in tackling the climate change emergency. The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, has awarded the significant sum to Ouse Valley Climate Action (OVCA), which successfully bid for the funding among over 600 applicants.

It comes after several busy years of discussions, events, planning and development across the region to work up a successful bid. The project area follows the River Ouse downstream from the village of Barcombe – which is aiming to be the UK’s first net-zero village –through to Lewes, the National Park’s largest town, and further south to the coastal towns of Seaford, Peacehaven, and Newhaven. The river valley is a fragile landscape that has already felt the effects of climate change this millennium, including flooding, storm damage, coastal erosion and biodiversity loss.

The funding will focus on three key areas: nature recovery and climate resilience; people’s knowledge and skills; and, finally, greener energy and travel.

Among the aims of the project are to:

- Capture more carbon with natural solutions, such as tree planting and creating new wildlife habitats.
- Make space for water in the Ouse catchment, such as creating dew ponds, to reduce flood risk and increase resilience to drought
- Support more community green spaces and food-growing areas.
- Empower and educate residents about climate action and sustainable living through inspiring events, engagement and training sessions. • Create behaviour change to help the environment.
- Develop new local Community Energy Groups and community-owned renewable energy projects.

The next steps will be creating a dedicated team to deliver the project locally, working with schools, businesses and community groups.

The project partners are: Lewes District Council, South Downs National Park Authority; South Downs National Park Trust, OVESCO, Community Energy South, Sussex Community Development Association, 3VA, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Transition Town Lewes and Seaford Community Partnership. Follow the project at [www. Southdownstrust.org.uk/south-downs-projects/ouse-valley-climate-action/](http://www.Southdownstrust.org.uk/south-downs-projects/ouse-valley-climate-action/)

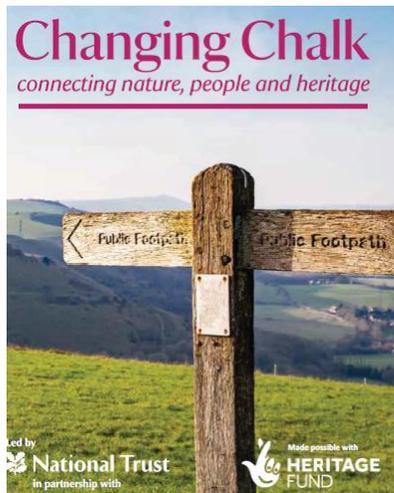
COP26 FORTNIGHT 2021

Lewes Climate Hub is an affiliation of more than 20 community and environmental groups in and around Lewes seeking to take collective and socially-inclusive action on the climate and environmental emergency.

November 2021 saw the Hub join forces with Depot Cinema and Lewes District Council to host 12 days of events as part of the Depot's Climate Action! Festival, and to coincide with the COP26 Global Climate Summit being held in Glasgow.

'COP with the Climate Hub' featured free talks, workshops, seminars and exhibitions, with each day focusing on a theme critical to tackling climate change – including Food, Travel, Biodiversity and Energy – plus a Family Day with games and activities. Alongside Hub volunteers, LDC councillors and officers were on hand to talk about the council's work to help reduce carbon emissions and improve climate resilience across the district. The event attracted an estimated 800 visitors over the two weeks.

www.lewesclimatehub.org



CHANGING CHALK- Connecting nature, people and heritage

Changing Chalk is a partnership of organisations working together towards a sustainable future for the eastern South Downs. Led by the National Trust, the partnership will connect nature, people and heritage by restoring lost habitats, bringing histories to life, and offering new experiences in the outdoors.

Working with the communities of Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Lewes we aim to protect and restore the Downs landscape for people to enjoy, for health and wellbeing, for nature's recovery and for climate resilience. The landscape and communities are facing multiple threats. The project area incorporates some of the most economically deprived wards in the UK, with high unemployment and physical and mental ill-health. On the neighbouring Downs, the internationally significant chalk grassland is facing rapid decline, with many of the remaining sites small and fragmented. Many heritage sites that document the story of human settlement on the Downs are also under threat.

Bringing £5m investment to the area, Changing Chalk will respond to these threats by breaking down barriers to participation and creating new opportunities to inspire people to connect with their landscape. We will bring rural and urban landscapes together to reverse the decline of the fragile chalk grassland, inviting local communities to play an active role in caring for its future. Over four years, Changing Chalk will deliver 18 collaborative and inter-connected projects under the themes of **Restoring Chalkland Biodiversity**, **Connecting Downs and Towns**, and **Hearts and Histories of the Downs**. A community grants scheme will be available from 2023, awarding £150,000 to community-led initiatives which help achieve the Changing Chalk objectives and vision.



ENERGY & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Progress towards our goals:

1. **We will have built and encouraged affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient homes**

The council's Co-operative Alliance is moving positively towards delivering 200 new council homes within the district over the 2020-2024 period, having 189 homes either in development, planning, under construction or completed. These include developments in Ringmer, Newhaven, Chailey, Lewes and Plumpton with more brownfield sites under consideration. The council has secured a modular housing contract to speed up development delivery and the provision of energy-efficient locally produced housing, is taking a fabric first approach to ensure high levels of insulation and appropriate low carbon heating and cooling requirements as well as building to Healthy Homes principles. Technologies considered at each site include solar panels, batteries, heat pumps, and green roofs/walls. The council has also recently begun the process of collating evidence for the new Local Plan to ensure that all development, not just council housing, is fit for purpose for the future, low carbon and climate resilient.

2. **We will have shifted the district to low and zero carbon heat and electricity**

The council is continuing to work with organisations such as UKPN regarding upgrading of power supplies within the district in order to facilitate the uptake of low carbon electricity, in order to enable the increased uptake of electric vehicles, and technology such as heat pumps. There is also partnership working with the CommuniHeat project which is working to transition the off gas village of Barcombe from high carbon and inefficient heating methods to low/zero carbon alternatives. The process the village goes through working with engineers Buro Happold and UKPN will be used to develop a roadmap to enable other rural communities to make the transition to net zero.

Solar Together is a successful group buying scheme to enable and facilitate the able to pay market to access best value solar panels and battery storage, one scheme has been completed to date with another due early 2023. By encouraging domestic solar suitable properties the council will enable residents to reduce reliance on centrally produced energy and will lower the overall emissions from domestic housing for the district, this has the double benefit of not only lowering emissions but also buffering residents against a volatile energy market.

3. **We will engage early on with developers to ensure they produce low cost, low energy buildings**

Early engagement with private developers is critical to meeting our net zero goals and continues to be a key focus for the council. This is however, completed against the backdrop of the current Local Plan which contains our planning policy documents. Moving forward, updating the Local Plan is key to ensuring the development of low carbon, highly energy-efficient buildings enabling early engagement to go hand-in-hand with clear policy direction.

Targets, facts and figures

We are currently on track to reduce council carbon emissions by around **50% by 2025**

Domestic buildings are responsible for **37 %** of Lewes District's emissions (BEIS LA GHG estimates 2020)

62.5 % of homes in the district have an energy efficiency rating of D or lower as of Sept 2022- this is an **improvement** on the previously reported figure of 71% meaning homes in the district are becoming more energy efficient.

Solar generation capacity as of end 2021 **16.7 MW**

Council energy consumption has **reduced by 9.5% on the baseline**



Solar Together- 2021/22 scheme has seen **161 PV installations** across the district that is forecast to reduce carbon emissions by almost **3,000 tonnes carbon** in their lifetime

Case Studies

Decarbonising Our Housing Stock- Developing the regional market

Homes First manages the council housing stock for Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council (in partnership with Eastbourne Homes Ltd). Lewes Council is part of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB), a partnership between seven local authorities, and in 2021 GBEB established a cross-sector Housing Retrofit Taskforce to work out how we can make homes zero carbon by 2030. Homes First is leading on this work and heads up a team of external specialists including academia, whole carbon experts, retrofit experts and specialists in energy and the supply chain.

The Taskforce's three objectives are to:

- determine how public sector homes and buildings can take be improved at scale across the region while boosting new skills, quality 'green-collar' jobs, and investment in low carbon industries;
- identify and promote long-term changes to energy usage while also increasing private sector engagement with the whole-lifecycle decarbonisation agenda;
- future-proof the region's homes

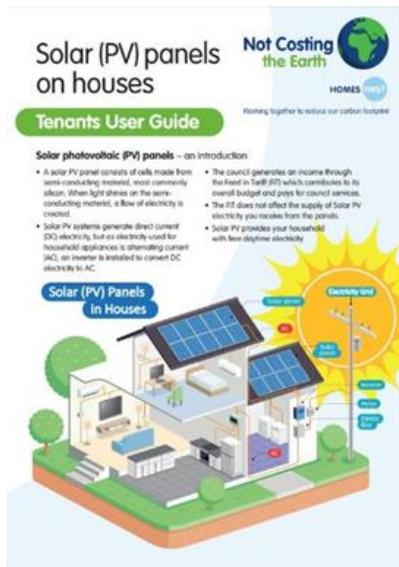


Core considerations that underpin the taskforce's decarbonisation decisions include the central role lower energy bills play in tackling poverty and how housing procurement tools can be used at scale to disrupt the current system.

Plans need to be scalable and replicable and work with existing supply chains and budgets. Collectively, to 2030 the GBEB region's councils will spend around £1 billion on repairs and maintenance of council homes. While the region will look for external funding, net zero will largely need to be achieved within a limited budget, not least because procurement needs to be coordinated and long-term to allow the development of a supply chain and local market. A deep assessment of 10 main types of housing has helped to shape what the future zero carbon pathways could be with the need to balance the cost to the landlord against the benefit to the tenant and whole-life carbon reductions.

The findings will be used to support the best possible decarbonisation strategy and possibly set new standards across the region, provide certainty for the supply chain and private sector, and establish the scale of work needed so that providers can gear up and train local staff. It is also hoped that working at scale will increase purchasing power and reduce unit costs.

Homes First in partnership with Eastbourne Homes have employed a Community Development and Sustainability Adviser as part of its zero-carbon work. Sustainability messaging is being promoted under the brand 'Not Costing the Earth' to raise awareness with accessible, down-to-earth, non-technical information. Non-technical guides on low carbon hardware such as solar PV panels explain how they work and benefit tenants who have them. The adviser has also worked in tandem with the taskforce, both supporting tenants involved in pilots and evaluating the best ways to engage and communicate with those whose homes are being retrofitted.



Homes First User Guides

The Homes First Team is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its housing stock. The team have produced guides and resources to support our commitment to reach zero carbon and to help you do the same.

An example of this guidance can be found in our user guide for Solar PV & Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) User guides, which have been produced to explain how Solar PV on houses and flats can work, and how tenants can get the best value from, along with energy saving advice, tips and contact for help.

To help develop and comment on trialling and piloting carbon neutral solutions to heating and powering homes over the next 1 to 3 years, the Council will additionally focus on tenant involvement and consultations.

CommuniHeat

The CommuniHeat project, based in Barcombe, is a partnership of local energy company Oveseco, Buro Happold and UK Power Networks and has now drawn to a close. The project looked at how planning at the community level made the transition from fossil fuels to electric heating easier and more affordable. The project has delivered a Home Action Plan to every home in Barcombe to help them plan their transition as well as providing support to those households who have decided to make the switch.

Ofgem funding is now being applied for so that the project can be expanded to clusters of villages.

For more information please contact communiheat@ovesco.co.uk

(Photo – CommuniHeat event in Barcombe Village Hall November 2021)



CommuniHeat
PATHWAY TO NET ZERO



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL & AIR QUALITY

Progress towards our goals:

We will have improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions by:

1. reducing reliance on cars and the need for personal car ownership

The Council recognises our dependency on cars and is working with car clubs to deliver more communally accessible vehicles as part of new housing developments. The council is also in the process of enabling existing and future car club vehicles to transition to electric where these are cited within our car parks.

The Council has given over car parking spaces within its car parks to facilitate cycle parking and continues to work with the county council on increasing cycle parking and car clubs.

2. encouraging a more sustainable and low carbon district wide transport network

Various studies are currently underway by both the Council and other organisations to enable better cycle access around the district. These include development of a potential Hamsey to Lewes cycle route, a study into facilitating better cycling and more secure cycle parking in Lewes town, and a study into options for Seaford. Community groups have been particularly active in this area gaining funding from various sources to improve facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists.

3. working with East Sussex County Council to promote and develop sustainable travel across the district

The Council continues to work with the county council, Transport for the South-East and rail operators to further improve the transport network and more locally to develop school streets and cycle parking. We have been actively working with the county council in starting the process of rolling out on-street electric vehicle charge points.

Targets, Facts and figures

The council is on track to have approximately **58 EV charge points in 10 car parks by early 2023**, we will continue to roll out charge points to further car parks after this.

As a result of the fleet decarbonisation strategy, **we are on track to have a zero carbon fleet by 2030**

The council is on track to reach around **90% percentage reduction in fleet direct fossil fuel use by 2025** this will smash our 20% target

On road transport is responsible for **37.4 %** of Lewes district's emissions (BEIS LA GHG estimates 2020)

There are currently approximately **13 public electric vehicle charging** locations within the district. The Council's 2 charge points have come to the end of their life but they are imminently due to be replaced.

921 Ultra Low Emission Vehicles registered by the end of Q1 2022 in the district of which 546 are pure electric-an increase in ULEV's of 146% since the end of 2019

The Air Quality Action Plans for Lewes and Newhaven have taken longer to prepare than anticipated but are currently being drafted with publication expected 2023.

Case Studies

Electric Vehicle Chargepoints to be installed into Council car parks

The Council has recently entered into contract with Connected Kerb, one of the UK's leading providers of electric vehicle charging solutions, to rollout fast charging into our car parks. Initially in 10-11 car parks across the district, the Council aims to install 58-62 charging bays with an additional 2 bays in Lewes town to enable the electrification of existing car club vehicles, by mid 2023. The rapid chargers in Lewes and Newhaven will be replaced with an increased number of fast chargers. Further charging and electric car club vehicle bays will then be evaluated during 2023/24.



Air Quality



Lewes District Council has worked to raise awareness of local air quality issues, providing information and encouraging active travel. Sussex authorities have produced Sussex Air Quality Guidance documents to provide developers on how to assess and mitigate the impact of new developments on air quality. Sussex-air has also been working with Sustrans (sustrans.org.uk) to promote active travel, walking and cycling to work and school in Sussex through the Defra funded schools project since 2018.

Cycle Lewes awarded grants to further sustainable travel in Lewes town



LOCK IT, LOG IT
Keep your cycle safe, don't lose it in 20 seconds!

We want to encourage everyone who has a bike in Lewes to **Lock it** securely and **Log it** with Bike Register to deter theft.

Come to a free 'bike marking' event and we'll mark and register your bike.

Can't make an event? Register it directly at: www.bikeregister.com

Join us: www.cyclelewes.org.uk



Image: Simon Corbridge

CYCLE LEWES

Deterring Bike Theft- preventing theft of equipment is a key strand of encouraging personal modes of transport and Cycle Lewes proactively used Council provided grants of just under £800 to provide 7 free marking and bike registration events. A total of 155 bikes were marked and the events were much more popular than expected as the result of partnership publicity.

Low Traffic Lewes-this is a partnership project between Cycle Lewes and Lewes Living Streets which gained funding from Lewes Town Council as well as the District Council in order to create low traffic solutions for the Lewes High Street area. The progress report as of February 2022 can be found [here](#). The work of Cycle Lewes and partners is key to creating the evidence-based required for future High Street and town centre improvements to benefit pedestrians and cyclists, reducing emissions within the local Air Quality Management Area and compliments work being completed by the Council.



Seaford Community Partnership – Seaford Better Cycling Options Study



The Seaford Better Cycling Options study was funded by the South Downs National Park with some of their Ouse Valley Climate Action development grant from the National Lottery. The objective is to encourage more people to make greener choices about how they travel round the town and the surrounding area, looking at the existing provision and where interventions could make cycling easier and more attractive.

The study carried out a physical review of existing and potential cycle routes. Physical surveys and consultations were undertaken with local stakeholders and the general public over a period of six months.

The final report will outline how specific improvements could be made if funding becomes available as previous reports identified that Seaford is poorly provided for but included no detail. It will identify physical barriers to cycling participation that exist and suggest possible prioritisations and likely cost estimates. This will aid future applications for funding and local decision making as well as raising local awareness generally.

Should SCP secure further revenue funding for cycling projects from SDNP or others, then a series of suitable projects to promote cycling locally are envisaged.

“Engines Off” campaign



Over the last year [Seaford Environmental Alliance\(SEA\)](#) has been working with Lewes District Council to involve Seaford Schools in our “Engines Off” campaign. Idling of car engines, especially in areas where young people gather, represents a serious risk to health and also contributes to the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

SEA shared some information and resources with schools and asked their pupils to design some materials which could be used to raise awareness of the problem, and encourage more active travel to school. There was an enthusiastic take up and the resulting collection of posters have been on display at the Climate Hub. The initiative proved so successful that designs at Cradle Hill and Seaford Primary were turned in banners for the school gates. These give a very strong message from the young people that we all need to take responsibility for protecting the quality of air they breathe.



BIODIVERSITY

Progress towards our goals:

1. All developments maximise the opportunities for well considered gains in biodiversity.

We currently seek to make maximise biodiversity on all of our own development sites this includes the installation of green walls and green roofs where feasible. The update to the Local Plan will see net gain written into planning policy for all developments.

2. We have increased biodiversity on council owned and managed landholdings.

The Council's Biodiversity Strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2021. This strategy complements the pollinator strategy and pesticide policy adopted in 2019. Projects to increase valuable ecological habitats through better mowing machines, tree and hedge planting and continual reviews of management and contracts for council owned land and property support and proactively pursue measures to help arrest biodiversity losses, restore habitats and species and work for climate resilience to promote healthy and thriving communities. We are currently considering how we better measure and report the biodiversity improvements we have made, and we are a part of a regional project to investigate this.

3. We have engaged and enabled community led nature-based projects and we are involved in partnerships that promote natural capital across the district including coast and sea.

Community led projects and partnership working are key to delivering improvements to our natural environment. The Council has an active Green Consultancy Team consisting of specialists across water, coast, ecology and parks management, that works with outside organisations and private landowners to deliver work across the district. We continue to benefit from our links with the University of Brighton and our access to their students for the conduction of research projects most recently having the GIS student complete mapping as part of the Sussex Flow Initiative project. The council works across the coast with partners such as Adur & Worthing Councils to determine how best to restore natural kelp forests off the Sussex coast, through the Sussex Bay project, that has the potential to capture the carbon emissions equivalent to those from 7235 homes.

Targets, facts & figures

1048 trees planted by the Council since 2019

24.8 kt CO₂e was captured in 2020 within the landscape of the district

The Council completed a woodland opportunity mapping exercise in 2021 utilising a University of Brighton GIS Masters student. This is now being expanded through the SELEP funded project 'accelerating nature-based climate solutions' which will hopefully lead to locally based carbon capture and biodiversity net gain projects and a **fund for these that the council can contribute to.**

The update to the Local Plan will ensure we meet our target that all major developments achieve at least 20% biodiversity net gain.

Case Studies

Accelerating nature-based climate solutions



Kent Wildlife Trust are currently delivering a South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Project on Accelerating Nature Based Climate Solutions, primarily focussed with carbon sequestration. The project area covers East Sussex, Kent and Essex and there will be a specific case study on Lewes district with Officers working closely with the delivery team to ensure the legacy of the project.



Work undertaken as part of this project aims to:

- a) Provide an understanding of the demand for nature-based projects from local authority climate emergency plans and the local businesses seeking to invest in local carbon offsetting.
- b) Assess the 'readiness' of nature-based organisations to develop and deliver nature-based projects for carbon sequestration and identify gaps in skills, knowledge and capacity that stand in their way.
- c) Produce resources to support the development and delivery of a coherent nature-based carbon sequestration offer.
- d) Begin to develop demonstration projects to showcase innovation and good practice.
- e) Understand what a SELEP-wide 'brokerage hub' might look like and begin to create a framework that can bring together 'buyers' and 'sellers' to co-develop nature-based carbon sequestration projects.

Bee Lines Project

Bee Lines launched 3 years ago and is going from strength to strength to create a new network of wildflower corridors to help support bees and other pollinators. These insects have been on a steep decline across the UK for several decades and are now under threat from climate change. Funded through grants from the South Downs National Park trust the network of new planting will effectively create a road system for pollinating insects allowing them to move through the landscape more easily. Within Lewes district Lewes Cemetery has been transformed thanks to wildflower planting that occurred with the receipt of a grant. A recent survey found a total of 55 different species of wildflower at the site.

Chris Bibb, who works at Lewes District Council as a consultant on green projects, said: "The wildflower seeding and plug planting was a great success and the variety of flowers has been popular with visitors to the Cemetery and butterflies, moths, bees and bugs alike."



Lewes Arboretum project



Since 2014, The Friends of Lewes have planted 123 mature street trees around Lewes and almost 2,000 whips as hedges. We work with partners including the council and local schools to plant the trees and hedges to improve biodiversity and to increase tree canopy cover because our i-Tree survey, published 2019, showed that Lewes Town had only 11.5 % tree canopy cover - and the minimum recommendation for urban environments is 20%. See: [iTree Survey – The Friends of Lewes \(friends-of-lewes.org.uk\)](https://www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk) and the digest of the results: [friends-of-lewes-i-tree-eco-survey-report-2019.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/friends-of-lewes-i-tree-eco-survey-report-2019.pdf)

Photo- Audrey Jarvis (Chair of The Friends of Lewes) out planting



AGRICULTURE & FOOD

Progress towards our goals:

We will work in partnership with others to:

1. educate and enable residents to access affordable, local and seasonal food through supporting opportunities for local production and distribution

The Council works with the Lewes District Food Partnership (LDFP) and others to ensure accessibility to affordable food. This may be through the provision of space for community organisations in order to enable projects to go ahead, such as community larders and community fridges. Enabling and supporting local food markets where we can and engaging with landowners. The LDFP is bringing together communities, food businesses, local growers and producers, emergency food providers, food waste activists and other organisations from across the district at the October 2022 Lewes District Food Summit, in order to connect the dots and create better food systems for everyone.

Council tenants have had active participation and encouragement in food growing through the 'Not Costing the Earth' project and the council has reviewed landholdings for potential food growing use.

2. implement a district and Sussex wide food strategy

The food partnerships within Sussex are working together along with SCDA and others to explore how we can make the local food system in East Sussex work for its people, boost the local economy, and protect and enhance the environment through a regional event in October 2022.

3. enable and support local food growing using regenerative farming methods

The Council continues to promote more sustainable farming methods whenever there are conversations with landowners and farmers occurring. This is a crucial strand of how, Sussex wide, we can ensure local food businesses have the opportunity to thrive and tackle the climate and nature emergency at the same time. This action links to projects occurring within other action areas such as biodiversity.

Targets

Lewes Food Partnership is **actively pursuing work to tackle food poverty across the district**. There is a workplan, action plans in production, and governance structure in place, there is also a grants scheme to facilitate community projects. **The strategy is currently being developed.**



Homes First have provided all residents with a 'Top-tips for Saving money and preventing food waste' guide.

These guides have been designed to help families and residents across the district save money on the food budget, and to reduce food waste. The guides include issues related to meal planning, food storage and food labelling, as well as budget recipes. Food growing been encouraged through tenant events and publications. This is now a regular occurrence across Homes First Sites.

All Homes First residents can also now apply to convert areas of land for food growing.

Top-tips for Saving money and preventing food waste

Not Costing the Earth

Food Storage

Labelling - what does it mean?

has

Lewes Food Partnership

Community Supermarket

One of the priorities for Lewes District Food Partnership is to end dependency on food banks across the district, where 1 in 5 people report that they worry about how they will afford food (a figure likely to increase as the cost of living crisis deepens). SCDA offer community supermarkets in Newhaven and Peacehaven. These provide an alternative to food banks - there is no referral required and anyone can join as a member; there is a choice of food and



people can attend for as long as they want to. An average of 150 households attend each week across both locations. The community supermarkets offer a choice of items on a pay-as-you-feel basis, but also stock milk and boxes of eggs at 50p, as well as providing a range of frozen 'ready to reheat' meals cooked by volunteers in SCDA's community kitchen. Nearly three quarters of members report that meeting other people at the community supermarket is important to them, so the projects have developed café areas at each venue and aim to provide as much space for people to talk with each other as possible. In the Winter they anticipate that people may well want to just have somewhere warm to sit for a few hours. One member who had recently joined spoke about her experience, saying "The lady who helped me, she was really lovely, really kind, and she showed really good empathy, she didn't talk down to me, it was more about me than about them... It's nice, it's friendly, so rather than dreading it, I actually look forward to it now, it's the only thing I've got to look forward to every week."

Photo credit Neil Macaninch

Landport Estate case-study

Food security can't be achieved on a 'one size fits all' basis. The beauty of community food projects is that they are typically ultra-local, run by people from the very communities they serve and quick to adapt and respond to the particular needs of people living close by. Volunteers are passionate about the work that they do, motivated by a desire to make a difference.

The Landport estate in Lewes is a fantastic example of this. Landport Residents Association and Landport Community Hub have collectively developed a joined up approach to community food provision, creating multiple opportunities for people to access healthy, affordable food right on their doorsteps.

The food bank, open every Monday, provides emergency food and support for residents who are really struggling, as well as making surplus food available to anyone. There's also a weekly pay-as-you-feel community café which is open to everyone and a community fridge is in the works. The community garden is being redeveloped using a small grant from Lewes District Food Partnership and there are plans dementia and wellbeing groups.

Even the local nursery gets involved, using funding from LDFFP to offer healthy fruit and veg snacks to their pre-schoolers. Claire Connell, the manager at Pippa's Group nursery said, "We used the grant [from Lewes District Food Partnership] to buy fresh fruit and vegetables for the children to experience and enjoy as part of a healthy snack. We used some of the money to buy strawberry plants. With the fruit that was produced we made strawberry jam with the children who took it home to share with their families. This was a hugely popular activity with the children and their families. We also introduced a wider range of fruit and vegetables than we would normally use. We did taste tests with the children and we made smoothies with natural yogurt too."

From September 2022 the nursery will be using Landport Community Garden as one of their forest school bases, with the children taking responsibility for a small plot to grow some of their own veg, further embedding the links between these projects.

This community rooted, place-based approach isn't just about reacting in a crisis, but prioritises access to healthy and delicious food for all in a fair and equitable way. The inter-connectedness means that there is very little food waste and expertise can be shared – through initiatives such as the Landport Community Café recipe book. In August there was a free community BBQ on the green, with some of the food provided for free by the local corner shop as a way of thanking residents for their custom. Cooking on the grill while families relaxed together was Debbie Twitchen, chair of Landport Resident's Association, who provided the rest of the food and prizes. "This is what we do", she told us.





REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM WASTE

Progress towards our goals:

1. we will have reduced emissions from waste collection

In June 2022 cabinet adopted the 'Fleet Replacement Strategy 2030'. This will lead to a new fleet of ultralow emission refuse and recycling vehicles by 2030. Initially in 2023 (subject to due diligence) existing diesel vehicles will move to an ultralow carbon renewable diesel made predominantly from used cooking oil, and food waste collection pods (fitted on diesel refuse vehicles) will be replaced with specific electric trucks. Fleet procurement is now aligned to the zero carbon 2030 target.

2. we have minimised the waste generated by residents, businesses and visitors

Communications to increase recycling continues to be a corporate priority and we use all the engagement tools available. The 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' (RRR) bulletin has been well received by members and residents. We have used the RRR bulletin to promote repair café type schemes. We have developed a Planning Technical Advice Note relating to construction waste and this is now a planning app validation requirement.

3. we will have increased the proportion of the waste collected by the council that is recycled and reduced the emissions from this activity where we can influence and control this.

The Fleet Replacement Strategy 2030 will in part assist in reducing the amount of waste produced within the district by enabling more waste products to be recycled. This complements the ongoing communication strategy implemented by the council including the 'RRR' email bulletin.

Targets, facts & figures

The Council is on track to a zero carbon waste fleet by 2030.

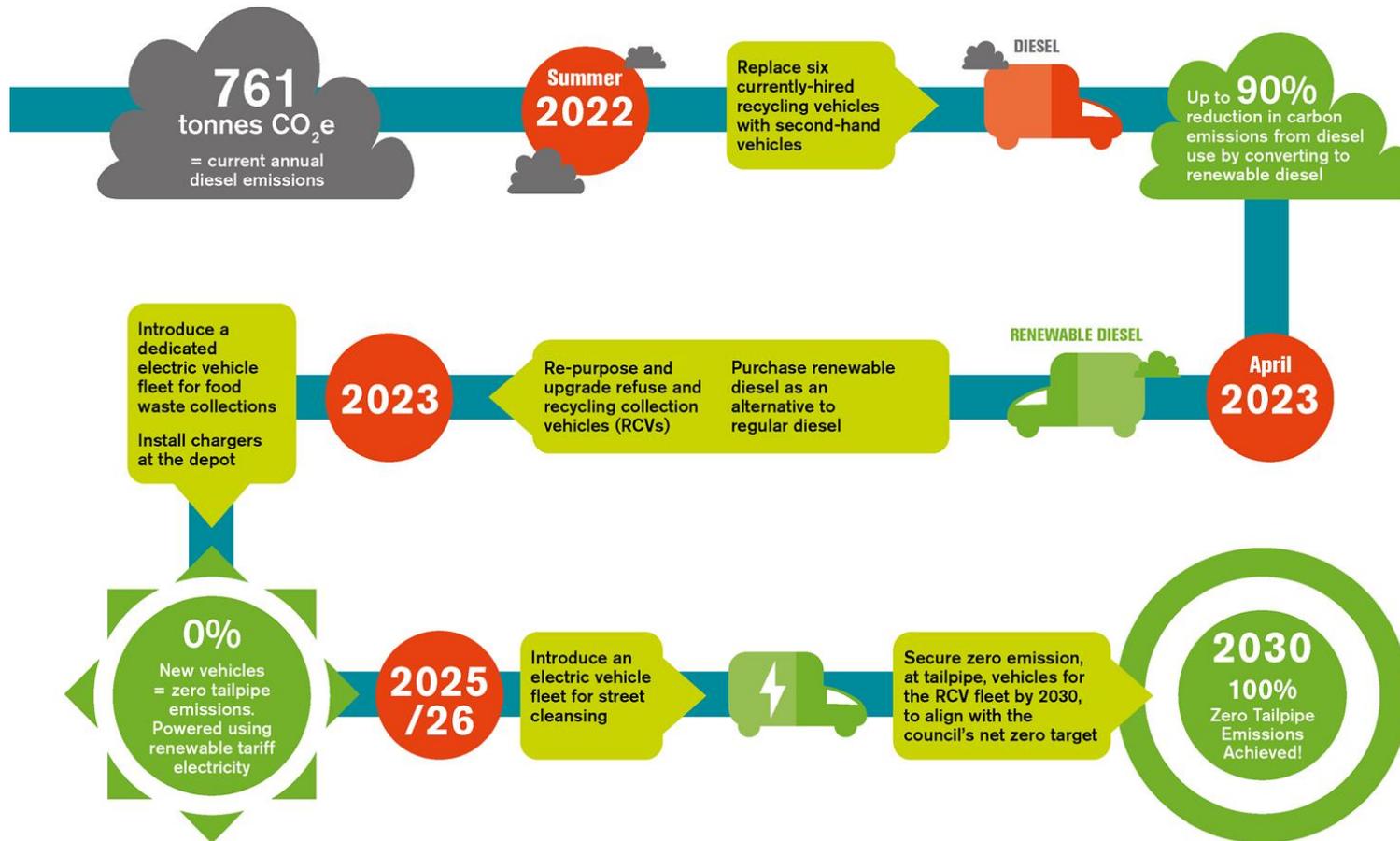
Lewes recycles about 41% of its rubbish

The Council has met its target to produce a pathway to a zero carbon waste fleet by the end of 2022 having had cabinet adopted the strategy in June 2022. Delivery of the pathway is subject to budget and due diligence.

The Council is continuing to work on strategies to recycle 55% of the district waste by 2025.

Council Waste Fleet pathway to net zero by 2030 (subject to due diligence and budget)

Fleet Replacement Strategy Timeline



The Litter and Fly-Tipping Reduction Strategy and Action Plan



Lewes District cabinet councillors have agreed a new campaign, called The Litter and Fly-tipping Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, to tackle behaviours that damage the environment.

Anyone found fly-tipping, littering, graffitiing, fly-posting or failing to pick up their dog's mess can be fined or, where appropriate, face legal proceedings in court.

Residents are encouraged to report fly-tipping using the Report It smartphone app or on our website.

Sharing Skills CIC & Seaford Repair Café

The Seaford Repair Cafe has its first birthday in September 2022! We've fixed over 300 items and saved them from landfill! We are now in the Mercread Youth Centre which gives us space to provide a free community lunch alongside. Books and activities are provided too.

The Repair Cafe now sits within a new social enterprise called Sharing Skills CIC.

We provide a free community lunch and activities and have also set up a community group who planted four flowerbeds in Seaford town centre with fruit bushes, vegetables and herbs. We meet every two weeks to maintain the beds. Our aim is to bring people together to learn practical skills from each other and to promote a circular economy.

We have a 'Get to know your sewing machine' workshop and a pre-Christmas toy swap planned for October 2022. Details of future events are available on our website www.sharingskills.co.uk



Council Partnership with Cheeky Wipes



Lewes District Council has partnered with a sustainable Newhaven company to launch an innovative voucher scheme that saves money for parents of young children and helps reduce waste.

In the first collaboration of its kind, the council and award-winning Cheeky Wipes - which specialises in reusable wipes and nappies - is opening the scheme to all parents in Lewes district with children under two-years-old or those expecting a baby. Parents can redeem a voucher worth £50 (part funded by the council) towards the cost of Cheeky Wipes reusable wipes and cloth nappies, offering savings of £500 on equivalent disposables over two years.

Billions of wet wipes are thrown away in this country every year, creating unnecessary waste or flushed away to end up polluting our sewers, rivers and sea. Disposable nappies are also one of the biggest factors in plastic waste globally. This scheme helps parents move from single-use to reusable alternatives.



WATER

Progress towards our goals:

We will work in partnership with others to achieve:

1. reduced water consumption in the district, conserved and protected and water resources, including our aquifer.

The Council's new Local Plan policies will seek to achieve best practice water consumption in new developments and we will continue to encourage water conservation and activities through communications and events.

Southern Water's sewer discharges into the district's rivers and coastal waters has only got worse during 2022, as a result councillors in March 2022 resolved to endorse a motion seeking explanation from Southern Water as to how it will safeguard the River Ouse, its tributaries and the coastal waters of Lewes District.

2. well managed and protected waterways and coastal areas that benefit residents and the natural environment.

3. communities that are resilient against flooding and coastal erosion.



The Council has an excellent track record of working in partnership to meet the 2 goals above. Examples of these are provided in the case studies below but also include working with the Environment Agency to assess options for our coastal frontage and maintain ongoing discussions with East Sussex County Council, Southern water and other stakeholders.

- Works are currently underway in Peacehaven to repair sea defences to withstand more powerful storms that are a result of climate change.

- Newhaven Flood alleviation scheme has been completed in partnership with the District Council, the Town Council, the Environment Agency and others to reduce the risk of flooding from the sea and the river along the Ouse Valley. This £17.5m scheme has improved the flood risk for some properties from a 1 in 10 chance of flooding to a 1 in 100 chance in any given year. Local infrastructure has also been protected by more than 4km of upgraded flood defences and the work has supported the wider regeneration of the town enabling investment, jobs and new homes to be brought to the area.



Targets, facts and figures

Over 20,000 tons of carbon to be captured annually by woodland and hedgerows planted as a result of the Sussex Flow Initiative and Natural Flood Management.

568 leaky dams installed to reduce the impacts of flash floods

Zero new build units approved contrary to environment advice on flooding

Case Studies

Partnership approach to natural flood management

Lewes District Council has partnered with Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust and Sussex Flow Initiative, as well as landowners and other stakeholders, in order to promote natural flood management methods on the River Ouse. This work reduces the risk of flooding, increases biodiversity, assists in improving water quality and helps make our district more climate resilient.

The council and partner organisations are also reducing the risk of flooding for around 15 homes in Ringmer by creating a new wetland, and working with the Cuilfail community on reducing run-off affecting the South Street area of Lewes.



10 Years on from its 2012 pilot the Sussex Flow Initiative (SFI) has just published a summary of it's last 5 years of achievements which can be found here https://makingadifferenceinlewesdistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SFI_EndOfFiveYears_2017-22_Report_FINAL.pdf.

These are some project highlights:

Constructed 568 leaky dams in many places including Chailey Common, Plashet Wood near Isfield, Hoath Wood above Newhaven and West Wood near Wivelsfield. These will hold back

586,000 litres of water per rainfall event reducing the likelihood and impact of flood events by slowing the flow of water and holding it within the landscape, then allowing it to gradually dissipate.

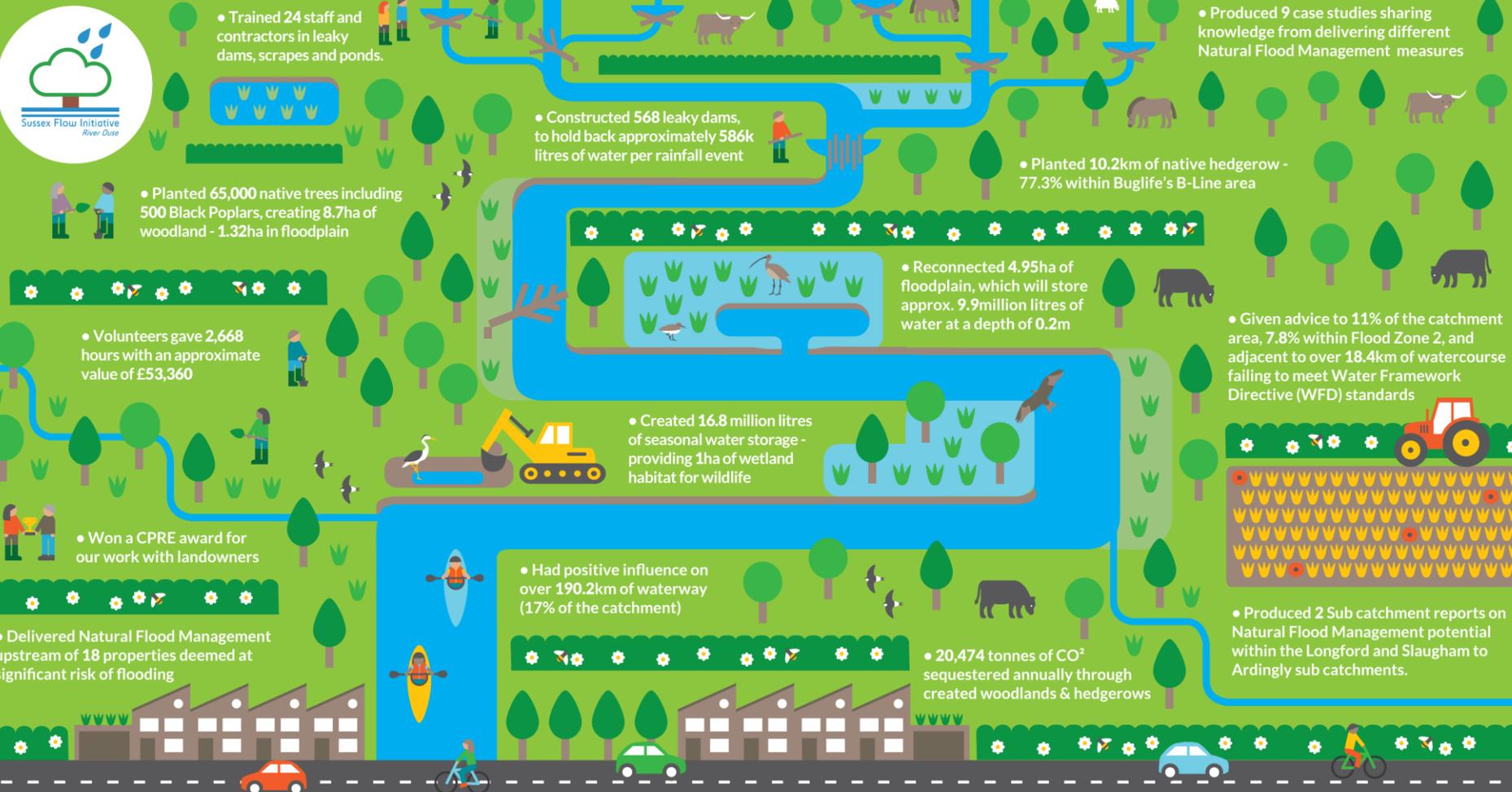
Planted 10.2km of native hedgerow- 77.3% within the Bee-Line area

Planted 65,000 native trees creating 8.7ha of woodland

Created 16.8million litres of seasonal water storage providing 1ha of wetland habitat for wildlife



Sussex Flow Initiative: 5 year summary of achievements 2017-2022



- Trained 24 staff and contractors in leaky dams, scrapes and ponds.

- Produced 9 case studies sharing knowledge from delivering different Natural Flood Management measures

- Constructed 568 leaky dams, to hold back approximately 586k litres of water per rainfall event

- Planted 10.2km of native hedgerow - 77.3% within Buglife's B-Line area

- Planted 65,000 native trees including 500 Black Poplars, creating 8.7ha of woodland - 1.32ha in floodplain

- Reconnected 4.95ha of floodplain, which will store approx. 9.9million litres of water at a depth of 0.2m

- Volunteers gave 2,668 hours with an approximate value of £53,360

- Given advice to 11% of the catchment area, 7.8% within Flood Zone 2, and adjacent to over 18.4km of watercourse failing to meet Water Framework Directive (WFD) standards

- Created 16.8 million litres of seasonal water storage - providing 1ha of wetland habitat for wildlife

- Won a CPRE award for our work with landowners

- Had positive influence on over 190.2km of waterway (17% of the catchment)

- Produced 2 Sub catchment reports on Natural Flood Management potential within the Longford and Slaugham to Ardingly sub catchments.

- Delivered Natural Flood Management upstream of 18 properties deemed at significant risk of flooding

- 20,474 tonnes of CO² sequestered annually through created woodlands & hedgerows

The River Festival



Love Our Ouse were formed out of a desire to help facilitate community action in addressing the issues faced by our river by linking with existing stakeholder groups and promoting river -focused events. The River Festival on 25th September 2022 was delivered by Love our Ouse and the Railway Land Wildlife Trust. The programme provided accessible, fun and informative means to learn about the issues of the River Ouse while giving local people options to get involved in actions to safeguard and build resilience. It also provided a celebration giving the river pride of place as an important cultural and heritage feature in our landscape. The festival attracted around 1600 visitors and brought together many river enthusiasts, supporters, investors, stakeholders, recreational groups, experts, artists and musicians. It is the hope that the Festival will be the launchpad for many new and ongoing opportunities to link communities and stakeholders to upscale positive action for the river on our doorstep.





CIRCULAR ECONOMY & COMMUNITY WEALTH

Progress towards our goals:

1. the Council has a sustainable procurement policy that facilitates local supply chains and encourages a circular economy.

The council has employed the Strategic Procurement Manager to help oversee work in this area. The Community Wealth Building Strategy (adopted in June 2021) contains within it an action plan that is in the process of being updated. The council has mapped current contract arrangements and reviewed and analysed spend data to understand spend patterns. A Social Value Charter has been developed and we will share our procurement analysis work once the anchor network has been established with our partners and we have engaged them in a wider investigation of procurement opportunities and approaches which will support local and some suppliers.

2. the Council has enabled a local reuse networks

Work currently in progress as part of the Community Wealth Building Strategy action plan.

3. investment has been made into the local urban, coastal and rural economies increasing local employment opportunities and reducing income inequality.

The Council is in the process of bringing outsourced contracts back in-house, for example the cleaning contract, and we have committed to actively considering in sourcing as an option to further community wealth building objectives.

Grants gained from the Towns Fund and the Future High Streets Fund of around £24million will enable the reuse of key vacant and underutilised assets within Newhaven town centre with an emphasis on local and community benefits. The council will work with local businesses and community organisations to deliver new facilities and opportunities with the aim of revitalising and regenerating the area.

4. local skills supply chains and employment opportunities are improved as a result of our partnerships with East Sussex College Group, public sector organisations, social enterprises, cooperative businesses, as well as other forms of business particularly focusing on clean and green technologies.

The council has hosted multiple Recovery Summits in order to explore the principles of community wealth building and to gain multiagency buy-in. We have developed a framework contract to enable procurement of local modular housing through Boutique Modern in Newhaven.

We have maintained and built upon and links with key community infrastructure organisations, such as 3VA, Sussex Community Development Association and action in rural Sussex, in order to take a partnership approach to promoting community ownership models and have revised our grants programme to include community wealth building as a criteria of award.

Targets, facts and figures

The Council is aiming to **launch** a community investment product in **2023**

The Council is establishing and anchor **institution network** in order to progress the community wealth building approach

Through the use of the Strategic Procurement Manager, the recruitment of a Community Wealth Building Officer and the progression of the sustainable procurement training package (in development) we **expect to incrementally increase** the proportion of annual Council spend to be provided locally within Sussex as contracts are tendered and come up for renewal, **in order to meet our 50% local spend target by 2030.**

Case Study

Climate Bond Pledge



After completing the LGA's Net Zero Innovation Project in 2021 Lewes District Council subsequently became one of the first six councils in England and Wales to pledge its support for a local climate bonds campaign to fund green projects.

The Green Finance Institute and Abundance Investment launched the campaign in summer 2021 to raise awareness and support councils through the process of releasing their own bonds.

The bonds would allow the council to raise money through a crowdfunding model, with residents able to invest from as little as £5.

Funding could be used for clean energy initiatives such as solar panel installations, or climate action projects from rewilding through to electric vehicle charging. By supporting the campaign, Lewes District Council has committed to exploring the launch of local climate bonds within 18 months of the global climate conference, COP26.

Local Climate Bonds were first piloted by West Berkshire and Warrington councils in 2020, raising £2 million in total for projects including solar panels, habitat restoration, tree planting and LED lighting.

The Council is aiming to launch a bond in 2023.

5. Strategy action plan update and sustainability indicators