

# East Devon District Council Climate Change Strategy



## Overview

### Our vision

*To become a carbon neutral council working within a low carbon economy and lifestyle, reflected in our travel, homes, businesses, visitor experiences and communities.*

### Our targets

**Carbon emissions:** To reduce our carbon emissions annually, and to be carbon neutral by 2040.

The target reductions are required for the UK and this Strategy identifies our contribution to achieve the targets in the Climate Act 2008.

We will work with partners and contractors to support them in reducing their carbon footprint.

We will also assist Town and Parish Councils, community and voluntary groups understand their carbon footprint and make changes to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

**Action Plan – Mitigation & Adaptation:** We are including in our Climate Change Action Plan a mix of mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure that reducing emissions and preparing for climate change is given equal importance. We aim to undertake critical adaptation measures identified with partners to ensure the resilience of people, homes, communities, and businesses.

### Our Priorities

- Increase resilience to climate change to maintain East Devon as a safe and healthy place to live, work and visit.
- Enable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption in homes, transport and businesses in East Devon.
- Enable the development of secure supplies of renewable and low carbon energy for individuals, communities, business and industry.
- Support new development which seeks to minimise additional associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- Contribute towards developing the low carbon economy.

### How are we planning to deliver these priorities and reach our targets?

We will draw up 5 year Action Plans to address these key priorities, and progress towards them will be measured annually.

### How will we measure our success?

- Carbon emissions will reduce in all Council Services, reaching or exceeding our targets.

- Reassess our carbon footprint annually.
- Renewable and low carbon energy sources will support us in reaching or exceeding our targets.
- Critical adaptation measures will be implemented.
- New planned development will have minimal environmental impact.
- The low carbon economy is thriving.

## Our Commitment

*“We need to manage the risks posed by climate change and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are committed to promoting and enabling a shift to more sustainable and low carbon operations”*

Our Climate Change Strategy aims to set out our priorities and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by East Devon District Council that contribute to national and global efforts as well as to limit the dangerous effects of climate change, and to manage the risks posed by a changing climate.

The scale of new development being planned across East Devon could generate significant additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and it will be necessary to plan and deliver growth in a way that minimises new energy demand and contributes to climate resilient; low carbon living, travel and energy infrastructure. The transition to a low carbon place also presents significant economic opportunities and it will be important to take steps to capture economic benefits locally.

We recognise the importance of our leadership in supporting and enabling the development and delivery of local solutions to help address these global problems. This Strategy sets out our commitment and ambition for delivering the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient, East Devon District Council.

As part of our carbon reduction journey we committed to the **Devon Climate Change Declaration** in July 2019, which is reproduced below:

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon’s communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least

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45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.

4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:
  - Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
  - Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
  - Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
  - Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
  - Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
  - Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
  - Divesting from fossil fuels
  - Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
  - Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
  - Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
  - Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.
7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.

8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.
9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same.

## Introduction and Policy Context

### Our Changing Climate

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The global climate is changing, with greenhouse gas emissions from human activity the dominant cause. The global increase in temperature of 0.85°C since 1880 is mirrored in the UK climate with higher temperatures and evidence of more extreme weather events. Sea levels globally and around the UK have risen by 15-20 centimetres since 1900 with significant contributions now coming from the melting ice sheets over Greenland and Antarctica. In the UK, average sea levels are currently rising by 3 millimetres per year. Plant and animal species are feeling the onset of spring and summer, on average, 11 days earlier than in the 1970s. Winter rainfall is arriving in more intense bursts.

Our climate is being and will be influenced by a combination of warming caused by past emissions, future emissions, and natural climate variability. Global temperatures will continue to rise over the 21st century. The science is telling us that it is very likely that heat waves will occur more often and last longer, and that extreme precipitation events will become more intense and frequent in many regions. The ocean will continue to warm and acidify, and global warming means sea levels will continue to rise. Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.

Both extreme weather events and long-term gradual climate change will have wide-ranging implications. In the UK we are expecting increasingly hot dry summers and warm wet winters, alongside more extreme weather events with floods, storms and heat waves of greater severity and frequency, and sea level rise.

Changes in the climate elsewhere in the world will also impact upon the UK. There is a significant risk of declining crop yields globally, and rising sea levels will mean that the homes of many millions of people around the world (including the UK) are likely

to be affected by coastal flooding. The consequences of impacts such as these will be transmitted through global trade, resource flows, migration and political networks.

**Climate Mitigation** - reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit the extent of climate change.

**Climate Adaptation** - increasing preparedness for and resilience to the changing climate are complementary strategies to address the pressing global issue of climate change.

**Climate Resilience** - this is the capacity for a socio-ecological system to: (1) absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of external stresses imposed upon it by climate change and (2) adapt, reorganize, and evolve to improve the sustainability of the system, leaving it better prepared for future impacts.

### **Climate Change and its impacts**

There is a scientific consensus that climate change is occurring. The UK Met Office defines climate change as “a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns or average temperatures”. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) states that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen” and also that “Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems”. There is a very strong consensus in the scientific community that humans are the cause of this recent climate change.

Globally, the 21 warmest years on record (since 1880) have all occurred within the 23 years since 1995. Average temperatures in England have risen by approximately one degree Celsius since the 1980s, with 2014 being the warmest year on record. Annually, South West England has almost 21 fewer days of air frost than it did in 1961.

Annual mean precipitation over England and Wales has not changed significantly since records began in 1766. However, South West England is experiencing almost 10% more precipitation now that it did in 1961. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable, but over the same period has decreased in summer and increased in autumn and winter; 28% more in autumn, almost 16% more in winter, and approaching 9% less in summer.

All regions of the UK have experienced an increase in the contribution to winter rainfall from heavy precipitation events between 1961 and 2006. In summer, all regions except northeast England and northern Scotland show decreases.

Severe windstorms around the UK have become more frequent in the past few decades, although not above that seen in the 1920s. The 1990s saw 14 strong

wind events, compared to 4, 5 and 8 in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s respectively. These observations are correlated with the strength of the North Atlantic Oscillation for which no trend is identifiable. Relative sea level (sea level taking into account changes in land height due to post-glacial rebound) in the South West has risen by approximately 250mm since 1916.

The 2009 UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) provide likely projections of climate change for the UK, UKCP09 gives projections for a number of scenarios, each of which suggest a different pathway of economic and social change over the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; it is not possible to assign probabilities to each scenario. The current global emissions trajectory indicates that the “High” emissions scenario best represents the current status quo. Under this scenario, by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century central estimates are that mean summer temperatures in Devon will increase by 2 – 3°C (with the warmest summer day being 4 – 6°C hotter) and that precipitation will increase by 20 – 50% in the winter and decrease by 30 – 40% in the summer. Upper and lower end estimates are more extreme, but are equally likely to occur as the central estimates.

Projected climate changes will result in a number of threats and challenges to the UK. The UK’s Committee on Climate Change has identified the **top six areas of climate change risks** for the UK:

1. **Flooding and coastal change** risks to communities, business and infrastructure - climate change may lead to increases in heavy rainfall and significantly increased risks from fluvial and surface flooding by mid-century. Rising sea levels may further increase the risk of flooding and erosion along our coastline.
2. **Risks to health, well-being and productivity** from high temperatures - warming UK temperatures, combined with demographic change, may lead to an increased risk of overheating. The number of heat-related deaths in the UK could more than double by the 2050s from a current baseline of around 2,000 per year.
3. **Risk of shortages in the public water supply**, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry - climate change combined with population growth may put greater pressure on water availability. By the 2050s, many catchments across the UK will need to manage water deficits and competing demands for water for public supply.
4. **Risks to natural capital**, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity - there is clear evidence of northwards shifts in species distributions and the timing of seasonal events due to climate change. This poses threats to our natural capital and the goods and services it provides, from timber, food and clean

water to pollination, carbon storage and the cultural benefits of landscapes and wildlife.

5. **Risks to domestic and international food production** and trade - extreme weather can affect international food production, trade and supply chains. Longer-term incremental changes in climate will affect agricultural productivity in regions that are important for food production. At the same time, climate change will present risks and opportunities for domestic production.
6. **New and emerging pests and diseases** and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals - there is an urgent need for research in the next five years to improve our understanding of how climate change will affect the threat of pests and diseases and the best approaches to monitor, detect and manage outbreaks and develop resilience to disease.

## Policy position influencing this strategy

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**International** - The Paris Agreement – the latest within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – unites the world to continue global efforts to deal with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigation and adaptation to the changing climate. As of February 2018, 197 parties have signed the agreement and the great majority have ratified it. The Agreement expects each country to plan its own ambitious emissions reduction activity and report its contribution to mitigating global warming in order to keep global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and ideally 1.5°C. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

**National** - Nationally, the UK is committed under the **Climate Change Act** (2008) to an 80% greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction in 2050 compared to 1990 levels, and has legislated five-year carbon budgets covering the period to 2032 that are compatible with this long-term target. The UK was the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets. The scope covers the entire UK economy namely from the power, buildings, industry, transport, agriculture and waste sectors. Where emissions rise in one sector, the UK will have to achieve corresponding falls in another to meet the carbon budgets. Our last Prime Minister announced a more ambitious target of 100% net carbon reduction by 2050.

The Climate Change Act 2008 also sets a framework for action on climate adaptation. The Act requires:

- A UK-wide climate change risk assessment (CCRA) to be undertaken every five years;



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- A national adaptation programme (NAP) to be put in place and reviewed every five years, setting out the Government's objectives, proposals and policies responding to the risks in the CCRA;
- The Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change advise on the preparation of the UK CCRA and report to Parliament on Government's progress with the NAP.

The second UK CCRA was published in January 2017 and sets out six priority risk areas:

- Large increases in flood risk;
- Exposure to high temperatures and heatwaves;
- Shortages in water;
- Substantial risks to UK wildlife and natural ecosystems;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade;
- Risks from new and emerging pests and diseases.

Local Government has been identified in the National Adaptation Plan as having a central role to play in *“leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”*. In particular to:

- Build resilience into decisions on buildings, roads, businesses, parks and other public spaces;
- Build resilience into key services such as social care, emergency planning and public health;
- Make the best use of land, assets, investments and maintenance spending to manage risk better;
- Plan for the long term by reflecting climate risks and sustainable development in Local Plans;
- Increase organisational resilience to extreme weather building climate change risks into corporate risk registers;
- Support retrofitting, green-building and the design and management of green spaces;
- Encourage local businesses to be climate ready to ensure they are resilient and competitive.

Central government departments develop policy to reduce GHG emissions for the sectors they have responsibility over. Progress against the carbon budgets is reported annually by the **Committee on Climate Change** (CCC) which assesses both absolute emissions, and a range of performance indicators such as the carbon intensity of electricity, emissions from new cars, number of lofts and walls being insulated etc. The CCC state that the first carbon budget has been met and that the UK is currently on track to outperform the second (2013-17) and third

(2018-22) carbon budgets, but is not on track to meet the fourth, which covers the period 2023-27.

In the 2017 Clean Growth Strategy the government introduced a voluntary target for the wider public and higher education sectors in England called the Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020. This target would aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across these sectors by 30% by 2020/21, compared to a 2009/10 baseline. Government will review progress against this voluntary target by 2020, with a view to moving to a more ambitious target, or potentially a mandatory target, such as a 50% reduction by 2030.

**Local** - Local authorities play an important role in delivering national and international carbon targets and adaptation. They can drive and influence emissions reductions and improved resilience in their areas through the services they deliver, their role as community leaders and major employers, and their regulatory and strategic functions. For county councils this includes strategic plans related to Education, Highways, Waste Disposal, Public Health, Passenger Transport, Flood Risk Management, Minerals and Waste Planning, Economic Development, Transport Planning, Social Care, Libraries and Trading Standards all of which can play a role in area-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For districts this includes more energy efficient buildings and assets; changes to our vehicle fleet and travel arrangements; changes to procurement and contract management; WorkSmart and agile working; smarter procurement; embracing reduce/reuse/recycling; improved flood and coastal protection; planning; regeneration; community development; educating/enabling our communities to be more greenhouse gas emissions aware.

## Local Context and Actions

### East Devon District Council Carbon Footprint

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Consistent with the commitment in the Devon Climate Change Declaration we have plotted our carbon footprint in a comprehensive way to provide a baseline against which we can measure our carbon reduction ambitions. We have used the financial year 2018/19 as the base year as we have a full year of data available.

Our approach to plotting our carbon footprint has been to undertake a more detailed assessment in accordance with government guidance (HM Government 2019, Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance), than previous exercises looking beyond our energy consumption and business mileage to consider the three scopes of carbon use:

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- Scope 1 direct – combustion fuels; owned transport; process emissions; and fugitive emissions (air conditioning and refrigeration).
- Scope 2 energy indirect – consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.
- Scope 3 other indirect – purchased materials and fuels; transport related activities; waste disposal; leased assets and franchising and outsourcing; sold goods and services.

We commissioned the University of Exeter to assist us with this complex piece of work. The Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter have considerable expertise in this area of work. A spreadsheet has been prepared and populated for our reported carbon emissions. Council Services have captured our and our key partner's carbon emitting activities, and this has been translated in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent using national guidelines and conversion advice.

The carbon footprint assumptions with details of inclusions and exclusions are set out in a **Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2018/19** report in **annex xxx**. This provides part of the audit trail and baseline data for future years comparisons.

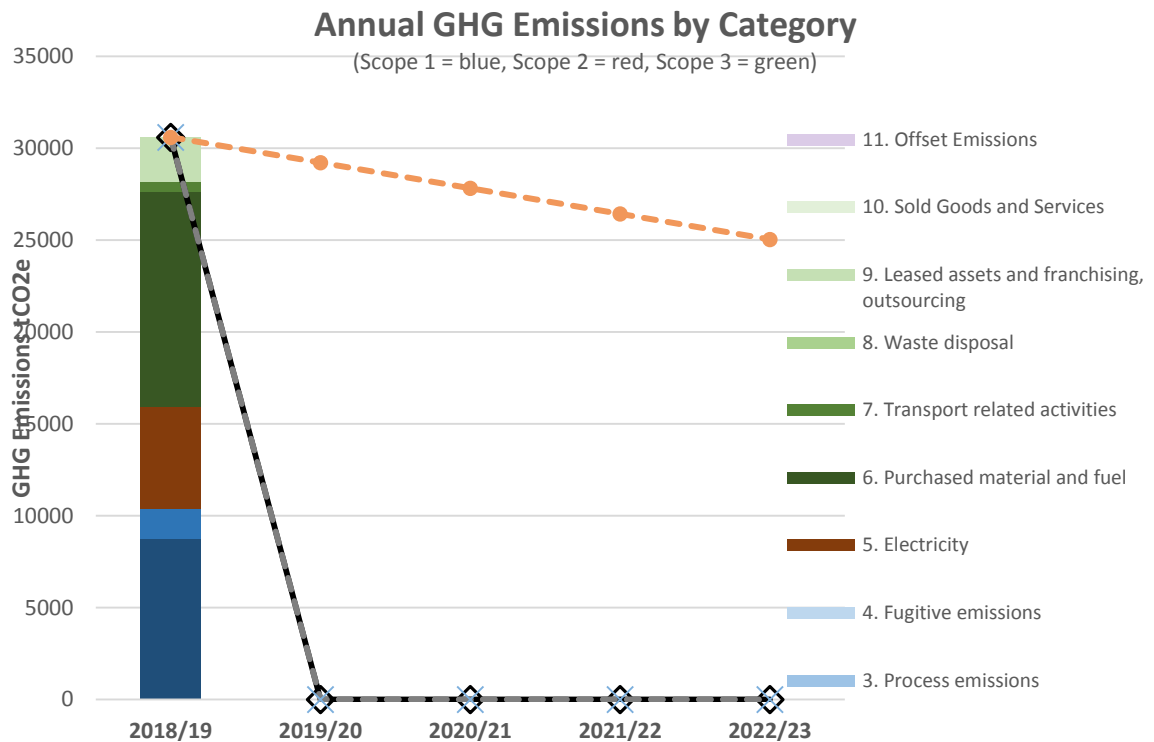
As might be expected our energy use in buildings and our procurement, travel and transport account for the major part of our carbon footprint. Our council housing stock accounts for a high proportion of our buildings carbon footprint.

The report in spreadsheet form in **annex xxx** shows our carbon footprint.

Our total carbon footprint has been measured as **30,598.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e** in 2018/19 comprising 10,370.1 tonnes from scope 1 emissions; 5,589.6 tonnes from scope 2; and 14,639 tonnes from scope 3.

In previous years we have reported 1,774 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013 reducing to 1,301 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2016. This work was limited in scope and excluded partners' emissions. Clearly a gross underestimate of the true picture.

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Our purchase of materials and fuel account for the highest proportion of our carbon footprint at 11,652 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is followed by stationary combustion, which is our social housing, leisure centres and gas consumption at 8,742 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Electricity consumption accounts for 5,590 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Leased asset/outsourcing emissions for outsourced services (Suez, Strata, and LED) amounts to 2,422 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e and owned transport (StreetScene, Housing, Suez fleet) represents 1,628 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. Transport related activity (our grey fleet (employee owned), staff commuting, tenant mileage, public transport accounted for 565 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

There have been a number of conscious **exclusions** from the carbon footprint, which I have listed below:

- Investments – our financial investments have been supplied to the University, but these are not in a useable format because it does not show the carbon footprint of the companies we are investing in and the proportion of our investment to total value.
- Events – we run a range of events in Countryside and at Queens Drive, in our theatre and gallery where customers travel, but we are unable to accurately measure their travel methods and distances of visitor transport. We have included the use of power and staff transport for events.

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- Strata data centre – no allowance has been made for the EDDC share of this facility based in Exeter.
- Ian Williams – our new Integrated Asset Management contractor has only been operational since July 2019 so we do not have data during the baseline period.
- Waste – from our various offices as no reliable data is available.
- Greendale Depot and workshop – electricity usage information requested.
- Other contractors/partners – Liberty Gas; Norse cleaning; etc.

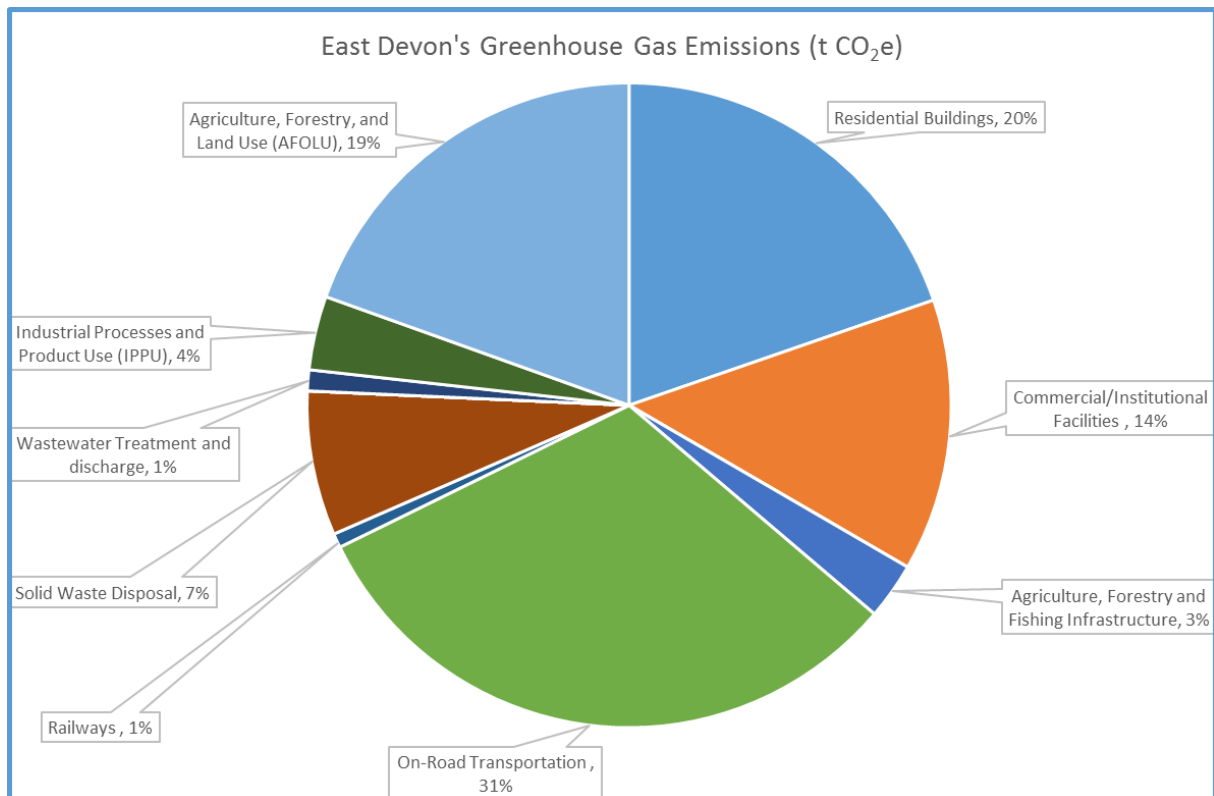
The areas where we should concentrate our early efforts to reduce our carbon footprint is the improvement in our procurement processes, including reducing consumption of purchased products and services, reducing reliance on fossil fuels for heating our buildings (mainly council homes) and electrifying our vehicle fleet. The Action Plan picks up on all of these points.

## Wider East Devon Emissions

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The University of Exeter have provided a breakdown of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by local authority area in Devon. Annual emissions are influenced by factors such as weather conditions, the economy, and new development as well as national and local policies. Whilst this strategy is primarily concerned with reducing the Council's emissions, we do intend supporting and encouraging others to take a similar journey towards becoming low carbon.

In 2017 (the most recently available data), emissions totalled 1,067,223 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. The amount for stationary energy used was 386,484; transportation 344,101; waste 88,641; industrial processes and product use 39,567; and agriculture, forestry and land use 208,432 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.



## East Devon Climate Change Action Plan

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Our local climate change action plan has been developed having regard to good practice in the sector, published advice and guidance, and through a series of staff workshops.

We intend to refresh the Action Plan every five years reflecting on the annual carbon reductions achieved and the practicality and affordability of the measures proposed. This way we might see four iterations of the Action Plan as we move towards our carbon neutral ambition. The target date of 2040 for becoming carbon neutral is arbitrary and will be refined as we monitor progress on the actions. If feasible we will bring the date forward.

It would be appropriate to achieve some 'quick wins' in the early stages of the action plan and effectively buy some time where Government policy, technology and markets need to be more developed before we can progress certain elements of the Action Plan with confidence.

The **purpose** of the Action Plan is to achieve a carbon neutral position for the Council within a defined timescale. The Action Plan will also be used to encourage others to adopt a similar approach. Whilst this is primarily an EDDC plan it recognises the

influence we have on others who share our ambitions. We have an ambition to reduce our carbon use at every opportunity and work towards the **Act Globally – Think Locally** aspiration that is still relevant today.

The **themes** in the Action Plan where the Council can make meaningful climate change interventions include: (1) **energy supply and consumption**; (2) **permitting and encouraging low carbon development**; (3) **improving the carbon footprint of existing buildings (public and private sector)**; (4) **protecting and enhancing the natural environment**; (5) **water supply and flood protection**; (6) **transport and travel**; (7) **purchasing and consumption**; (8) **community resilience**; (9) **education, communication and influencing behaviour**.

We need to be brave and bold if we are genuinely committed to reducing our carbon footprint, and ensuring residents and business adopt similar aspirations.

This Climate Change Action Plan (shown in **annex xxx**) is about social and organisational responsibility, lifestyle change, education and awareness raising, and consideration of environmental and ecological issues for future generations.

The Action Plan is divided into two distinct sections based around **mitigation** measures and **adaptation** measures. Mitigation is concerned with interventions designed to reduce emission sources and any carbon offsetting activity, whereas the adaptation section is concerned with an adjustment we make in response to climate change i.e. raising sea defences and supporting community resilience.

The Action Plan has been informed by a series of staff and member workshops where ideas and contributions have been put forward for inclusion in the Action Plan. We need to be 'brave and bold' if we are to achieve our ambitions and recognise that some of the actions will not be universally popular as they may impact on lifestyle.

## Our Priorities and Targets

### Priorities

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There is overwhelming global consensus that society must rise to the challenge of tackling climate change. East Devon is a leader and influencer on Climate Change and we should aim to inspire individuals, businesses and other organisations to commit to take action to reduce the districts carbon footprint.

We have been working on a Climate Change Declaration with other Devon local authorities, this involves local authorities and a number of other public sector organisations. It has been produced to reflect the climate change emergency and demonstrate a renewed commitment to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon use.

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The Local **Climate Change Action Plan** has been developed as part of the declaration commitments, with actions to be delivered by a range of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Progress will be monitored and reported on annually by the Council. There is an expectation that local action plans are produced within six months of signing the Declaration. A series of workshops have been undertaken that engaged staff and Members in shaping and delivering the Action Plan.

Our local Action Plan covers the following priorities, addressing the key themes, and identifying the meaningful contributions we can make towards the following:

### Energy Supply

- Reduce electricity consumption within the commercial and public sectors;
- Introduce smart meters and energy storage solutions in East Devon;
- Develop heat supply networks to deliver low carbon heat in East Devon;
- Increase the amount of energy generated locally using renewable technologies.

### Low Carbon Development

- Buildings in East Devon to be built to high standards of energy efficiency incorporating on-site renewable energy where possible;
- Retrofit energy efficiency measures into East Devon buildings;
- Improve properties to reduce fuel poverty in East Devon;
- Enable the uptake of Green Deal and associated grants in East Devon;
- Minimise the 'embodied carbon' incorporated in construction projects;
- Continue to develop planning policies that:
  - support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions directly and indirectly from the district
  - reduce the risks of climate change to the communities of East Devon.

### Natural Environment

- Improve the quality and connectivity of natural habitats;
- Promote Nature Recovery Corridors;
- Encourage local community groups and businesses to become more involved in the management of local green spaces;
- Use green spaces for carbon offsetting.

### Water Supply and Flooding

- Manage demand for and supply of water to reduce the expected impact of water shortages on consumers and on wildlife;



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- Reduce the carbon footprint of water supply and water heating;
- Reduce the risk of damage due to flooding and coastal erosion.

### Transport

- Develop a transport infrastructure which supports more low carbon travel options for people in East Devon;
- Reduce energy use and embodied energy in transport infrastructure;
- Manage transport infrastructure and services to prepare for climate change;
- Encourage non-car travel for all sectors of the population, through targeted advice, incentives and enforcement;
- Reduce the air pollution from vehicles.

### Purchasing, Supply and Consumption

- Enable people to make sustainable purchasing choices;
- Support and encourage local purchasing and the development of local supply chains;
- Promote and encourage new business models focused around the 'circular economy';
- Develop standards and the commitment to sustainable procurement in both the public and private sectors;
- Increase recycling rates;
- Reduce waste by supporting the re-use and repair of products and materials.

### Education, Communication and Influencing Behaviour

- Further integrate sustainable behaviour promotion and practice throughout schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces;
- Ensure that communication which is aimed at influencing climate change related behaviour is delivered in a consistent and targeted way;
- Engage organisations in the private sector, including residential and commercial landlords, in effective action to reduce their carbon footprint;
- Develop the market for climate change related local business and the skills to ensure that local jobs are created in line with the growing low carbon economy.

### Community

- Build community activity relating to sustainable communities;
- Build community resilience to climate change and self-sufficiency (collective and individual);
- Reduce consumption by building a sharing economy;

- Build an 'alternative economy' focused on quality of life and emphasising sustainable communities.

## Targets

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We have adopted the ambition of becoming carbon neutral as a council by 2040.

We recognise that as the pace of climate change accelerates, adaptation measures become increasingly important to protect communities and ensure the local economy remains resilient. Furthermore, the council will consider critical local adaptation measures to be put in place. We will ensure that adaptation measures are incorporated into all relevant Council decisions, activities, policies, plans and strategies.

We will be updating and expanding the Action Plan periodically to reflect these critical measures with work on flooding, health and wellbeing, natural resources, food and water systems, economy and infrastructure and building resilient new developments a key focus of this work .

Progress on climate adaptation will be monitored by means of annual progress reports on the delivery of the Action Plan, and actions will be embedded in service plans of relevant service areas for the council and our partners and will be monitored accordingly.

We will establish a series of performance indicators and report on progress.

**Carbon offsetting** is a position where a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases is made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). One tonne of carbon offset represents the reduction of one tonne of carbon dioxide or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases. We will explore the opportunities to offset using our land and assets.

We have agreed to embrace the **circular economy**, which is an alternative to a traditional linear **economy** (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

As well as creating new opportunities for growth, a more circular economy will:

- Reduce waste
- Drive greater resource productivity
- Deliver a more competitive UK economy.

Position the UK to better address emerging resource security/scarcity issues in the future.  
Help reduce the environmental impacts of our production and consumption in both the UK and abroad.

Practically that means an economy where products, components and materials are designed and made for reuse, refurbishment, recycling and safely returning materials to the planet. Promoting the circular economy should be an important part of our action plan going forward. We should adopt these principles as part of our actions to reduce our carbon reliance.



## Management, implementation, resources and monitoring arrangements

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East Devon District Council are responsible for leading, driving and monitoring action on Climate Change in the district.

All Councillors, managers and staff are responsible for implementing the Strategy and ensuring that Council policies, decisions, projects and procurement are delivered in line with the priorities in the Strategy.

East Devon District Council provides the **resources** for implementing the Strategy. The lead officer for co-ordination and management of the Strategy is the Strategic

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Lead – Housing, Health & Environment supported by the Service Leads and in due course a Climate Change Officer.

The Climate Change Strategy will be updated on a 5-yearly basis unless an earlier review is warranted for example by significant changes in relevant national policy or spikes in climate change impacts. Action plans will be produced and information will be available on the council website at <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk>

### Next Steps

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The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025 was adopted by the Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Following the adoption of the strategy the Action Plans will be incorporated and delivery will commence. These Action Plans will be reviewed and updated every five years.