

Introduction

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was adopted by Cabinet in April 2022. It supports the Council's ambition to do everything within its power to become carbon neutral by 2030. The Action Plan identifies the main sources of carbon emissions, both within the Council's own operations and across the District, and outlines actions to reduce them.

The following main themes summarise the key emissions reduction pathways identified:

The section on Council Operations sets out how the Council aims to reduce its own carbon emissions to become carbon neutral and identifies actions on how this is to be achieved. Further sections of the Plan outline action that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions by residents, businesses and others across the District, either through direct initiatives, using statutory powers or by influencing behaviour change.

Climate Change Action Plan Summary Purpose

Following a review, the climate change action plan still stands but this Climate Change Action Plan Summary aims to reflect progression of actions since adoption of the CCAP, focus on the direct action the council can take to make the biggest emission reductions ourselves and account for organisational changes and those further afield.

The document presents recommendations for priority actions in 2023/24 and summarises actions that have been completed, those that are ongoing and now classed business as usual, and those that can be removed following investigation. The summary also gives an update on KPIs from CCAP monitoring and presents further KPIs to clearly track progress on the recommended priorities.

Climate Change Action Plan Monitoring

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are listed within the CCAP document to track progress, these are reviewed and published on an annual basis. The metrics are listed below with the most recent data included. To continually improve our reporting additional KPIs are suggested below to reflect the priorities put forward in this summary document.

Theme	Key Performance Indicators	Baseline	Current	Target
Council Emissions	% reduction in reported Scope 1 and 2 Council emissions	2,067 tCO ₂ e (2018/19)	1,746 tCO ₂ e (2020/21)	14% reduction per year
Council Emissions	Average SAP rating of Council owned social housing	71 (2011)	Will be based on stock condition survey	81 by 2030
Council Emissions	% of staff certified as Carbon Literate through the Carbon Literacy Program	0% (2020/21)	2% (2021/22)	100% by 2030
Council Emissions	no. of electric vehicles in the EFDC fleet	0 (2018/19)	32 (2021/22)	All by 2030
Travel	% of ULEV's registered in the District	0.6% (2018)	2.6% (Sept 2022)	4-5% by 2025 8-10% by 2029
Travel	No. of EV chargers on Council owned public land	10 (2020/21)	16 (March 2023)	105 by 2025
Buildings	Cumulative value of grants awarded to homeowners for energy efficiency and renewable heating measures	£45.6k (2019/20)	£563k (April 2023)	£1.74m by March 2023*
Natural Environment	% of the high-quality Green Infrastructure projects in the Green Infrastructure Strategy that have been delivered.	0%	Awaiting Green Infrastructure Strategy monitoring	56% by 2026
Natural Environment	No. of new trees planted within the District	New metric	3,997 (2022/23)	50,000 by 2030
Waste	% kerbside waste that is recycled, reused or composted	56% (2018/19)	54% (2022/23)	70% by 2030
Waste	Average Annual Household Residual Waste Collected	479kg per HH per year (2020)	405kg per HH per year (2022/23)	10% reduction per HH per year by 2030

Suggestions for revision

- Split the measure Scope 1 and 2 Council emissions data into Buildings emissions and vehicle fuel emissions. This is to give a clearer picture of building related emissions for priority actions 1 and 2. Having the fuel separate will also give a more accurate picture of the Council's fleet when used alongside the EV conversion to electric vehicles numbers now that grounds maintenance fleet has moved to Qualis.
- Addition of business miles emissions measure to monitor priority 4.
- Addition of renewables measure eg. kW of solar PV installed to monitor priority 2.

Completed Actions

The actions listed in the table below are those that can be marked as complete within the CCAP. Further activities have taken place over the period of the plan however these are embedded within wider actions. Some of the highlights since the final CCAP was published in April 2022 are listed below by action plan theme.

Action	Comment
Switch utilities to renewable energy tariffs	Electricity tariff switched to 100% renewable energy tariff in October 2021. Switch to 'green' gas not financially viable at this time.
Sustainability Guidance Vol.01-3 (Major Developments, Minor Developments, Extensions and Refurbishments) developed as a material planning considerations.	Vol. 01-2 endorsed by Cabinet March 2021 Vol. 03 endorsed by Cabinet March 2022
Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Sustainability Guidance and checklist.	Applies to the Garden Town masterplan sites within the District. Endorsed by Cabinet March 2021.
Information provided on EFDC website on Transport, Homes, Natural Environment, Waste, Air Quality, Water and Food. Also, specific pages for Schools, communities, and businesses.	Information actions throughout the plan have been completed via information pages on the EFDC website, to be updated quarterly. To further this promotion of the Cutting Carbon Essex app launched by ECC in May 2023 will occur quarterly.
Implementation of a Litter Strategy to keep streets and areas free of litter	Approved by Cabinet in October 2022
Promote community waste and litter-based activities	Litter picking equipment available for loan through the EFDC website.
Review of waste contract	Completed in 2021/22
Tree planting for flood resilience and shading	Planting took place in Roding Valley in 2022/23

Further activities

- Council emissions – Waltham abbey museum building energy audit and implementation of the behaviour change actions proposed, battery storage at the Civic to support the existing Solar PV system, Vehicle to Grid EV chargers installed at the Civic, building stock condition survey underway for social housing, Corporate plan update includes objectives for climate, successful application for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to retrofit 130 homes up to 2025, successful application to the Sustainable Rural Grant program. The Council has also invested in energy efficient leisure centre improvements such as pool covers, Building Management System, variable speed drives and LED upgrades.
- Behaviour change – Colbea green business training opportunity
- Travel – 6 chargers installed across 2 EFDC car parks, Oakwood Hill Depot and at Basons Lane
- Air Quality – Approval of Air Quality Action Plan at Cabinet in March 2023
- Natural Environment – Planting of 1392 trees in the Roding Valley
- Waste – Litter strategy approved by cabinet in October 2022

Priority Actions 2023/24

The priority actions for 2023/24 have been recommended as they are actions from the CCAP where the Council can directly implement initiatives with more significant carbon impacts. They are actions that also aim to bring co-benefits both to the council and to residents such as cost savings and improved living conditions. They are also activities that CCAP consultation respondents highlighted as being important.

No.	Action from CCAP	Activity	Timescale	Portfolio Holder /Partners	Cost	Carbon Saving Potential
1	Energy efficiency improvement of Council owned estate	Investment in energy efficiency works to be included in Operational Assets Strategy and Asset Management Strategy.	Short	Housing and Strategic Health Partnerships	Grant funding, Capital Budget to be requested, Climate Budget	Higher
2	Review renewable energy and storage potential at existing council owned sites	Assessment of suitability for measures such as heat pumps, solar PV and solar thermal.	Short	Housing and Strategic Health Partnerships	Climate budget, Grant funding where eligible	Higher
3	Include consideration of the Climate Emergency in Council decision making processes	Consideration of Climate Change to be embedded into decision reports	Short	Customer and Corporate Services	N/A	Medium
4	Business travel in staff owned cars 'grey fleet'	Proposal to lease 2 EV pool cars at Oakwood Hill Depot and North Weald Airfield to increase % of low emission mileage for business travel and reduce business mileage spend.	Short	Environmental and Technical Services	TBC – will be based on the cost of 2 cars	Higher
5	Increase EV charge points on EFDC owned land	Rapid EV chargers to be installed at Burton Road with further locations to be explored	Short	Environmental and Technical Services. Housing	TBC some capital contributions needed	Higher

Business As Usual

This section summarises activities from the CCAP that are ongoing and therefore can be classed as business as usual. Much of this section refers to educating, influencing, and engaging others to take climate action themselves. These actions in the CCAP were spread across different themes, however in this document they have been grouped into business-as-usual behaviour change actions to have a more concise and clear overview of actions taking place. Similarly, now that the local plan has been adopted actions related to policy on new development has been grouped into a business as usual action.

Theme	Action	Activities	Portfolio Holder /Partners	Cost	Carbon Saving
Council Emissions	Best practice in new Council Developments	Planning applications for new council facilities and developments to lead by example meeting Sustainability Guidance net zero by 2030 levels	Housing and Strategic Health Partnerships, Qualis	Developer	Higher
Council Emissions	Staff engagement and training to influence behaviour change	Carbon Literacy training to be rolled out across the organisation.	Customer and Corporate Services	Training budget	Medium
Council Emissions	Encourage and incentivise sustainable commuting	Re-publicise car share mapping tool based on staff home postcodes.	Place	N/A	Lower
Behaviour Change	Keep website relevant with climate knowledge and information/advice from national campaigns and local partners including ECC and ECAC.	Quarterly update of website information and promotion of campaigns	Place, Comms	N/A	Lower
Behaviour change	Education and empowerment of residents, businesses and organisations to reduce their own emissions	Update of website climate pages with climate knowledge and advice. Promotion of ECC behaviour change initiatives eg. Cutting Carbon app, Love Essex, Liftshare, Campaigns to link household emissions reductions to health, indoor air quality, savings on energy bills Campaign to promote sustainable travel using demographic tools to understand populations Idling vehicles promotion campaign Awareness raising of effects of air pollution on Epping Forest Emphasis on reducing waste in all campaigns.	Place, Air Quality, Waste, ECC,	N/A	Medium

		<p>Information campaign on recycling and contaminants to reduce high contamination rates.</p> <p>Publicise existing video to show what happens at the waste depot</p> <p>Educate businesses on circular economy principles to encourage waste reduction.</p> <p>Encourage retrofit of water conservation measures in housing and businesses.</p>			
Behaviour change	Promotion of initiatives and grants to help residents, businesses and organisations reduce their own emissions	<p>Charge point funding – work with Economic Development to identify high traffic sites</p> <p>Publicise business related grants and initiatives through the business newsletter and DIZ network eg. LoCase</p> <p>Renewable energy scheme Solar Together</p>	Housing and Strategic Health Partnerships	N/A	Medium
Behaviour change	Involvement of the community in EFDC planting projects	<p>Invitation of schools and the community to EFDC run tree planting events.</p> <p>Residents to learn about the wildlife attracted by growing projects.</p> <p>Creation of planted sensory zones for wellbeing and to encourage biodiversity.</p>	Place, Schools, Parish Councils, Community groups	Internal budget identified, grant funding	Lower
Travel	Engage with ECC to influence and encourage sustainable travel initiatives in the EFDC area	<p>Influence EFDC provision in ECC's Bus Service Improvement Plan</p> <p>Support and influence Essex County Council's cycling strategy</p> <p>Work with Essex Highways to provide on street charging infrastructure by supplying sites for OZEV bids</p> <p>Work with ECC Rights of Way to support active travel routes</p> <p>Support ECC DRT initiatives</p>	ECC	N/A	Higher
Travel	Promote ECC sustainable travel initiatives	<p>Promote school streets and ECC's school travel plans</p> <p>Promote travel plan guidance to businesses and other organisations.</p> <p>Campaigns on new and existing public transport services</p>	ECC	N/A	Higher
Travel	Identify and engage community groups and influencers to promote active travel messaging	Local action groups, EFDC community wellbeing initiatives, sport-driven schemes, NHS/Clinical Commissioning Group/GP led active travel messaging	Environmental and Technical Services	N/A	Higher
Air Quality	Reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in the Bell	Liaise with Epping Forest Conservators and ECC Highways to improve air quality in the Air Quality Management Area, with the aim of	Commercial and Regulatory Services	Internal budget identified	Higher?

	Common AQMA to below the objective	making sufficient progress to continue updating the Air Quality Action Plan.			
Air Quality	Reduce impacts of new development on existing receptors and ensure new developments are not subjected to poor air quality	Work with the Council's Development Management Service to update standard conditions on planning applications, ensuring they address current and future issues resulting from development.	Commercial and Regulatory Services	Internal budget identified	
Air Quality	Campaign Raising Awareness of the causes and effects of air pollution	Impact of idling vehicles No car days Clean air day	Place	Internal budget identified	Lower
Buildings	Facilitate domestic energy efficiency improvements	Installation of energy efficiency measures in low income, low efficiency homes using grant funding. Maximise opportunities from central government grant funding.	Commercial and Regulatory Services	Grant funding	Higher
Buildings	Encourage Community Energy initiatives	Suitable buildings for solar PV engagement with local groups.	Residents associations, housing associations, community groups	N/A	Medium
Buildings/ Travel/ Adaptation	Local plan policies to stipulate measures in new development that meet climate goals	Stipulate measures in new development to reduce the need to travel and encourage EV adoption including, the most futureproof Fibre to the Premises options, encourage co-working spaces, provision of EV charging points	Place, Developers and planning applicants	Section 106 and planning conditions	Higher

Actions to remove

Since adoption of the plan some of the actions have been investigated but can now no longer go ahead, others have been affected by organisational changes and others have been consolidated into business as usual above to bring clarity to related actions that span multiple themes.

Action	Reason for removal
Reduce number of journeys by increasing EFDC's remote touchpoints for public and businesses.	Removed as this is not a viable option at this time. Increase in digital opportunities.
Identify and bid for all OZEV and commercial funds to improve EV experience including EFDC estate and fleet	Suitable sites given to ECC but focus for funding in areas of greater deprivation Other activities in this action overlap with increasing the no. of EV chargers on EFDC owned estate.
Facilitate and encourage sustainable public transport focusing on rural community connection to key settlements, actions related to Demand Responsive Transport: DRT bus service stipulated as part of Dowding Way development, DaRT87 DRT trial, Identify innovations to encourage DRT usage	Removed as DaRT87 trial to cease
The following actions relate to behaviour change across different themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage active travel to schools. - Raise awareness of funding for off street charging points. - Promote new and existing bus services. - Education of residents to encourage reduction of household emissions. - Encourage businesses to take up grants to implement carbon reduction initiatives. - Engagement of residents in community growing projects. - Engagement of the community in tree planting activities. - Promote waste reduction. - Promote good household recycling. - Education on what happens to waste. 	Now that activities have started individual actions relating to behaviour change have been consolidated into 2 actions within the behaviour change section to be more concise and simple to track.
The following actions relate to planning and new developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures in new development to reduce the need to travel and encourage EV adoption. - The most futureproof FTTP options in new developments - Encourage innovation in waste reduction and collection in new developments 	Following the adoption of the local plan these actions have been consolidated into one planning action under business as usual.

<p>The following related to ECC responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence EFDC provision in ECC's Bus Service Improvement Plan - Support and influence Essex County Council's cycling strategy - Work with Essex Highways to provide on street charging infrastructure by supplying sites for OZEV bids - Work with ECC Rights of Way to support active travel routes - Support ECC DRT initiatives - Promote school streets and ECC's school travel plans - Promote travel plan guidance to businesses and other organisations. - Campaigns on new and existing public transport services 	<p>These individual actions can be removed and replaced with 2 actions in business as usual one relating to influencing decision making at ECC and one related to promoting ECC travel initiatives. This makes the plan more concise and more clearly highlights where EFDC responsibilities lie in relation to travel.</p>
<p>Actively engage with landlords and residents to promote grants that improve home energy efficiency</p>	<p>This action overlaps with the facilitating Energy Efficiency action therefore these have been amalgamated to be concise.</p>