

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Head of Commercial Services</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Wendy Bixby</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Colchester's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards		

**This report concerns the adoption of a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Colchester**

**1. Decision(s) Required**

- 1.1 To adopt a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Colchester for 2015 to 2020.
- 1.2 To recommend to full Council that the Strategy is adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

**Reasons for Decision(s)**

- 2.1 Environmental sustainability is a strategic priority for the Council. Having an adopted strategy will provide the Council, its partners, employees and residents with a clear statement of direction for its environmental sustainability related activities. The Strategy can show how the Council will undertake the detailed implementation of its priorities. The Council does not have a statutory responsibility to produce and publish an Environmental Sustainability Strategy; however, the strategy does incorporate the Council's statutory responsibilities to produce a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report and Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report.

**3. Alternative Options**

- 3.1 To amend or not adopt the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. There are however clear risks to not having a robust evidence based strategy in place such as not achieving local priorities, not being able to evidence and articulate the Council's (CBC) wider vision for environmental sustainability and not providing a strong focus to residents and partners about their contribution to meeting our priorities.

**4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The new Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020 builds on the significant progress already made by the Council. CBC, working with its partners, has already developed and successfully delivered a number of services and projects across the Council which support environmental sustainability. These are set out in Section 4 of the strategy. A number of these are highlighted below:
  - Successful sustainable transport projects and services - The Cycle Colchester Training and Events Programme; Colchester Travel Plan Club; Colchester Station Travel Plan; 'Better Town Centre' focussing on traffic reduction in the town centre.
  - Successful projects and services to reduce energy costs and fuel poverty - Carbon Management Programme; Energy Efficiency advice and guidance; 'Warm Homes' and projects to reduce fuel poverty; Energy Efficiency training for frontline staff, local

organisations and voluntary groups; Installation of Photo-Voltaic (PV Solar) Panels on Colchester Borough Councils housing stock and our own commercial buildings; Partnership event with En-form to deliver 'Green Open Homes' open day events; Big Community Switch for residents to access cheaper energy bills.

- Successful projects and services which help the Council and its residents to reduce, reuse and recycle - Food Waste trials and implementation across the borough; Working with ECC on the Waste busters project, promoting recycling and reuse and composting; Local Community Zone Teams behaviour change work (such as recycle week).

4.2 The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020 has been developed with officers from across CBC and external partners. It has been shaped by an extensive evidence base and by the input of the Policy Review and Development Panel (June 2013) which recommended that the new strategy focus on supporting communities to do more and enable residents to take action to build resilience.

4.3 Working with CBC Officers and external organisations has helped to identify the key priority areas on which to focus actions. The information in the evidence base helped shape the strategy and looked at the following key areas:

- Community energy and energy efficiency
- Transport and accessibility
- Resource management and waste
- Engaged communities
- Low carbon economy
- Development and the built environment
- Natural resources
- Open space
- Food and farming
- Water and Flooding
- Climate Change

4.4 An over-arching vision has been developed for the strategy:-

**“Colchester will be a leading sustainable borough by demonstrating strong performance in tackling climate change; resource efficiency; environmental protection and enhancement (of both natural and built environments); sustainable transport and quality of life for all, whilst respecting its special qualities and capacity for growth.”**

4.5 The new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Colchester takes account of national guidance. It also brings together local priorities arising from previous work undertaken such as Colchester's Climate Risk Assessment (2010); The Nottingham Declaration (signed in 2007); The Local Authority Carbon Management Plan (2008-2012).

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy has two strategic priorities:

1. **Community Leadership** by reducing the environmental impact of Colchester Borough Council's Buildings, Services and Operations
  - Key objectives include: reducing energy use; supporting our staff to be greener; and improving our housing stock.
- 2 **Building resilient communities** by working with Colchester's Residents, Businesses and Third Sector Organisations.

- Key Objectives include: supporting local communities to help them become more resilient to climate change; creating opportunities to reduce energy costs and use in our communities; and working to reduce fuel poverty.

The Strategy will be a live document that will seek to achieve its aims and objectives through the implementation of a 5 year Delivery Plan.

- 4.6 Monitoring and review - The Strategy is intended to be a working document with actions being implemented throughout the life of the Strategy. A report on the progress delivering the actions in the Delivery Plan will be produced on an annual basis and circulated to relevant stakeholders and presented to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Sustainability. A copy will also be made available on the Council's web-site.

## **5. Proposals**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet adopt the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015 – 2020 and in doing so support the implementation of the delivery plan, which will deliver the strategy.
- 5.2 That the Cabinet recommend to full Council that the Strategy be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

## **6. Strategic Plan References**

- 6.1 Colchester's Environmental Sustainability Strategy has several links to the existing Strategic Plan 2012 -2015 including:
- Enabling local communities to help themselves.
  - Supporting more vulnerable groups.
  - Engaging with the voluntary sector.
  - Working in partnerships to help tackle health (including fuel poverty)
  - Showing tolerance and changing behaviours to create better local communities.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 Consultation on the draft strategy was carried out in October 2014. It was agreed by the project group that two consultation exercises would be undertaken. An online questionnaire was used to capture the views of residents which helped fill gaps in the strategy and evidence base where local information was lacking. Paper copies of the survey were available at the Library on request for those who were unable to complete the survey online. The second consultation exercise involved one to one meetings with different service areas, or individual Officers from the Council and external organisations.
- 7.2 The results of the consultation have been used to shape the Strategy. Local information gathered from the consultation has been included in the Evidence base.

## **8. Publicity Considerations**

- 8.1 The Strategy documents will be published on the Council's website. A communications plan is being developed to publicise the Strategy and generate interest and commitment to the Delivery Plan.

- 8.2 Opportunities will be sought to publicise successful achievements arising as a result of the work undertaken to deliver the Strategy, in particular where external funding has been secured to support new partnership projects.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 Any resources required to implement the actions in the Strategy will be delivered from existing budgets. Encouragement will be given to partners to commit their resources to meeting the priorities set out in the strategy. As many of the organisations are members of the Project Group they have already helped to shape the strategy and shown their commitment to its delivery.
- 9.2 External grant funding, and where appropriate a collaborative approach to securing these funds, will help towards the implementation of some of the actions identified in the strategy.

## **10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 10.1 [An Equality Impact Assessment](#) has been completed and published on our website. It is anticipated that there will be a positive benefit to Colchester residents, businesses and partners.

## **11. Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 It is anticipated that with the implementation of the Strategy Delivery Plan there will be a positive benefit for Community Safety. This would be as a result of taking mitigating action to build resilience against the effects of climate change, and addressing issues such as flooding and energy security.

## **12. Health and Safety Implications**

- 12.1 The adoption and implementation of the ESS will have positive implications on health and safety as follows:
- Improved well-being.
  - More resilient communities.
  - Reduction of Fuel Poverty in Colchester.

## **13. Risk Management Implications**

- 13.1 Managing the risks associated with Climate Change, such as over heating in summer; flooding and extreme cold weather conditions; coastal floods all influence the way in which the Council will help build more resilient communities. Working closely with Essex County Council, the Environment Agency; Energy providers; the Emergency Planning Network and Water Management Companies are all ways in which we can identify and manage risk.

## **Attachments**

- Strategy 2015-2020 (Appendix includes the Delivery Plan)

## **Background Papers**

- Evidence Base (for copy please email [wendy.bixby@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.bixby@colchester.gov.uk) )
- [Climate Change Risk Assessment 2010](#)



# **Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2015-2020)**

Version Control table	
<b>Version number</b>	1
<b>Date current version produced</b>	January 2015
<b>Due date for next review</b>	Approved and ready to go to Cabinet 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
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# Foreword



Cllr Tim Young  
Portfolio Holder responsible for Environmental Sustainability  
Colchester Borough Council

*I am pleased to introduce Colchester Borough Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy which provides information about our approach to environmental issues, and identifies what we are aiming to achieve over the next five years.*

*Colchester Borough Council is leading the way in Environmental Sustainability and this has been achieved by working with partners and taking action beyond our statutory duties.*

*Whilst the strategy sets out the actions Colchester Borough Council will take, it also describes how we intend to work across the services using our resources to work with and influence partners and the private sector to help us achieve our strategic priorities.*

*Through the delivery of an action plan we will demonstrate how the Council is leading by example by working in a cost effective way, using resources wisely and reducing the environmental impact of our operations.*

*These are challenging times for local government. The new Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be delivered against a backdrop of a significant reduction in funding for local government. Colchester Borough Council has undergone a transformational review of its services and delivery, and working more sustainably will help us achieve reduction targets set for 2017 when the Council needs to demonstrate zero reliance on local government funding.*

*The increasing importance of environmental issues means that Colchester Borough Council has a key role to play at a local and regional level in promoting environmental sustainability.*

This document should be viewed in conjunction with the Environmental Sustainability Evidence base.



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# 1. Introduction

This is Colchester's first Environmental Sustainability Strategy which has been developed to demonstrate how the Council continues to lead the way in environmental sustainability, as well as guide its staff and partners on how to work in the most effective and sustainable way. It sets out a challenging vision for the Council. It has been developed by a project team made up of key people across Colchester Borough Council and its partner organisations, all of whom are strongly committed to delivering local projects and services which work towards national, regional and local targets.

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy demonstrates our commitment to reducing the environmental impact of our core activities and services. The aim of this strategy is to build on the progress already made by the Council; meet key priorities; and set out our plan to work across the Council and with external partners to meet new challenges that we face in the future.

This new Environmental Sustainability Strategy recognises our achievements so far, and takes into account the Council's existing Climate Risk Assessment which provides predictions, risks and potential actions. The Climate Change Projections (outlined in the Essex County Council Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment 2010), and other key documents listed within the evidence base provide information for a realistic forecast and overview of the situation for Colchester. Based on this information, Colchester's Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out priorities for a period of five years. Some of the projects identified in the delivery plan can be delivered with existing resources. Others will require the identification and approval of additional resources. Several projects will deliver efficiencies for the Council. In the current financial climate of reduced resources for the Council, the Council will need to look carefully at how it uses its financial resources to deliver this strategy.

Global research has shown that at least 50% of all carbon emissions come from buildings. We have 6,103 properties in our housing stock and 47 buildings which include offices and numerous operational sites (including a waste and recycling centre). Therefore, cutting carbon emissions from Council buildings, operations and services becomes our primary priority. Through the strategy delivery plan we will integrate and embed environmental sustainability into activities throughout the Council, and reduce the environmental impact of our operations as well as achieving better value for money for both the Council and our residents.

A reduction in our carbon footprint will also contribute towards the International Kyoto commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% against 1990 levels by 2050.

## 2. Our vision

Colchester will be a leading sustainable borough by demonstrating strong performance in tackling climate change, resource efficiency, environmental protection and enhancement (of both natural and built environments), sustainable transport and quality of life for all, whilst respecting its special qualities and capacity for growth.

## 3. Challenges

The Climate Change Risk Assessment, supported by our evidence base, found that we have some significant challenges to overcome in order to achieve our vision. These include:

- Climate change and unsustainable resources.
- Traffic congestion and air pollution.
- The need to reduce waste and recycle more.
- The risk of both flooding and water scarcity in a changing climate.
- Loss of biodiversity.

In addition to this we must recognise the special qualities and distinctiveness of Colchester and its coastline; this means specific challenges for Colchester Borough Council including:

- Ensuring that development to meet the demand for homes and jobs respects the special qualities and distinctiveness of Colchester.
- Recognising that older buildings have cultural value to society and while their energy performance is sometimes lower than very energy efficient modern buildings they warrant protection and careful handling.
- Protecting Marine Conservation Zones along Colchester's coastline, including the River Blackwater and surrounding areas, which provides a productive mosaic of habitats with Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations.

## 4. What we have achieved so far

### 4.1 Services and Projects

We have already developed a number of services and projects across the Council which support environmental sustainability. These include, but are not restricted to:

- The Cycle Colchester Training and Events Programme;
- Implementing a transportation policy linked to new development;
- Colchester Travel Plan Club;
- Colchester Station Travel Plan;
- 'Better Town Centre' focussing on traffic reduction in the town centre;
- Carbon Management Programme;
- Energy Efficiency advice and guidance;
- Food Waste trials and implementation across the borough;
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle activity;
- Countryside and Country Parks service to protect and enhance local wildlife;
- Working with ECC to promote the Eco-schools project ;
- Working with ECC on the Waste busters project, promoting recycling and reuse and composting
- 'Warm Homes' and projects to reduce fuel poverty;
- Business Green Doctor Project;
- Colchester Borough Council housing stock improvement programme;
- Big Community Switch for residents to access cheaper energy bills;
- Access to energy and tariff switching for Small Medium Enterprises (SME) via the Big Community Switch portal;
- Local Community Zone Teams behaviour change work (such as recycle week);
- Private Sector Housing promotion of grants and use of enforcement powers;
- Disseminating information from The Carbon Trust and Carbon Action Network (CAN) events;
- Zone Warden Community engagement with regular 'coffee and chat' events to support more vulnerable residents with energy efficiency in the home;
- Energy Efficiency training for frontline staff, local organisations and voluntary groups;
- 3000 Energy Performance Certificates completed on our own housing stock in 2014.
- Installation of Photo-Voltaic (PV Solar) Panels on Colchester Borough Councils housing stock;
- Partnership event with En-form to deliver 'Green Open Homes' open day events;
- Working with private landlords to support them in the provision of energy efficient housing for tenants;
- Community projects focussing on reducing excess winter deaths and fuel poverty.

The Council also recognises the importance of climate change mitigation which encompasses the actions being taken, and those that have been proposed in the delivery plan, to limit the magnitude and/or rate of long-term [global warming](#) on the borough. Examples of mitigation include switching to [low-carbon energy](#) sources in our own buildings and housing stock; reducing energy consumption; reducing car travel and promoting car share; 'reduce, reuse, recycle' and encouraging local community projects to engage in environmental sustainability including wood recycling and local food growing.

## 4.2 Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The Council has been recording CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions since 2006/7 (this is known as the baseline year). The total emissions in that baseline year were 10,150 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. By 2013/14 we reduced our annual emissions to 6,313 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

In 2008 we signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Programme and made a commitment to reduce our carbon emissions in Council buildings by 25% by the year 2012. The programme was successful and we exceeded our targets. By the end of LACM, in 2012, we measured that over 2,444 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e had been prevented from being emitted by our operations into the atmosphere. This resulted in 133 tonnes more CO<sub>2</sub>e being saved than our target.

We achieved these carbon reductions by reducing our energy usage and installing multiple energy saving measures into each of our buildings, assessing which are cost effective and could be installed elsewhere. We also delivered more energy efficiency measures to our own commercial buildings and housing stock by installing Photo-Voltaic (PV Solar) Panels. We use more energy efficient vehicles and have converted the majority of the fleet to bio fuels. We have also replaced some maintenance and lease vehicles with electric vehicles, especially in locations such as our country parks.

We have worked to make Council sites and buildings more environmentally sound by carrying out viability studies to address problems associated with identified risks for our region.

## 4.3 Procurement

Our procurement process enables us to promote productive use of resources and materials. This involves integrating environmental considerations into all stages of the purchasing process from avoiding unnecessary purchases and identifying greener products, to the specifications we use for contracts. The Council recognises the significant benefits to sustainability and the local economy of procuring from local small businesses. We changed our Procurement Strategy in 2012 to make the process easier for local businesses to participate in the procurement process.

## 4.4 Colchester's Comprehensive Climate Risk Assessment

In 2010 the Council carried out its own Comprehensive Climate Risk Assessment (CCRA) and identified a range of priorities as 'very high' risk; as a result an action plan was designed and the following key activities were completed:

- The Environment Agency & Essex County Council developed a county strategy for managing flood risk.
- Anglian Water worked to ensure that building development was not permitted where drainage systems do not have the capacity to cope.
- Anglian Water carried out an awareness campaign to educate the public about the need for reduced water usage and encouraged the planting of drought resistant gardens.
- Our Planning Team worked to ensure residential development met the code for sustainable homes standards (minimum of level 3) and that non-residential development met the minimum BREEAM rating of 'very good'.
- Colchester Borough Council also engaged and worked with Waterwise East to promote good practice in water efficiency.

## 5. Context

### 5.1 National drivers and legislation

There are a number of key national and local drivers that have informed the development of this strategy. In addition to the key headings shown in this section a summary of drivers are provided with the Glossary (Section 10).

#### Housing and asset management:

- The Code for Sustainable Homes (Communities and Local Government 2008) is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes, although this is set to change, until further guidance is provided Colchester Borough Council continues to apply this as it aims to reduce carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable.
- Decent Homes Standard - In July 2000 the government released the green paper 'Quality and Choice: A Decent Home for All'. This set out standards which all council housing had to meet.
- The government's 'Warmer Homes, Greener Homes' Strategy sets out plans to reduce carbon emissions in the housing sector.

#### Health and well-being:

- The Public Health England Cold Weather Plan (CWP) 2013 - Provides us with 'the role of the Council', and the Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) evaluation document allows us to look at other Councils 'lessons learned'.
- The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England 2013 – 2016 identifies how climate change risks can impact on health, and how homes that are not meeting minimum standards mean an increased demand on the NHS.
- The Climate Change Risk Assessment advises that climate change could have significant implications for the health and wellbeing of the UK population. There are implications for public health, the continuity of health and social care services both within the NHS and beyond, the resilience of local emergency services and the impact on the most socially vulnerable.

#### Energy efficiency:

- Community Energy Strategy: 'People Powering Change' (January 2014) focuses on the benefits of community energy; maintaining energy security and tackling climate change.
- DECC Policy: 'Helping Households to cut their energy bills'. Informs that smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters and are part of the government's plan to upgrade the UK's energy system.
- DECC Policy: 'Reducing demand for energy from industry, business and the public sector.' Recognises the role the Council can play in supporting local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.
- DECC Policy: 'Supporting international action on climate change'. Links within the policy provide access to annual summary documents on international negotiations on climate change.

- Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) are also leading the way with eight major renewable electricity projects, unveiled in 2014 as part of the government's world leading electricity reforms, with the intention of giving a massive boost to green growth and green jobs.
- CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (Environment Agency 2010) formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment - this is the UK's mandatory climate change and energy saving scheme. The scheme started in April 2010 and is administered by the Environment Agency. It is central to the UK's strategy for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.

## Climate Change:

- Defra: National Adaptation Programme - July 2013 saw the publication of the first [National Adaptation Programme](#) (NAP) as well as a [Strategy](#) for the second round of the Adaptation Reporting Power. The NAP sets out what Government, businesses and society are doing to become more climate ready. Colchester Borough Council is a member of the East of England Adaptation Network.

## Protecting the natural environment:

- The Biodiversity Duty - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 came into force on the 1st October 2006. Section 40 of the Act gives all public bodies a legal duty to consider biodiversity in their work.
- The main source of legislation used to manage human activities in the seas of Europe is the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

## 5.1 Local drivers

The Local Government Act 2000 gives the full Council responsibility for approving its [policy framework](#) and its budget. The key statutory elements of the Council's framework include the Local Transport Plan, the Local Plan and Licensing. The Colchester Local Plan guides the future growth and development of the Borough. The Local Plan is underpinned by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which tests the environmental, social and economic performance of policies and objectives against a set of sustainability objectives. A new Local Plan is currently being developed

Changes are currently being proposed to Council's statutory policy responsibilities under the Deregulation Bill.

A range of other plans and strategies are included in the Council's Policy Framework, either by government recommendation or as a matter of local choice. Environmental Sustainability is a key priority for Colchester Borough Council and is a cross cutting theme across a wide range of these strategies and policies, and will sit within the Council's Policy Framework.

This new strategy supports work to implement strategy delivery and action plans, and contributes to the following key local plans, strategies and policies:

- [The Colchester Borough Council 2012-15 Strategic Plan](#) sets out the Council's local vision to be cleaner and greener, and includes a commitment to promote sustainability and reduce congestion, as well as reducing, reusing and recycling our waste. The plan sets out how the Council will play its part in making Colchester a place where people want to live, learn, work and visit. This plan is currently being reviewed.
- Allotment Strategy – Colchester Borough Council runs 19 allotment sites within the borough with over 1104 plots. The strategy sets out the Council's approach to enabling people to access these sites and promoting the wider benefits of growing your own food and keeping fit.
- [Colchester Parks and Green space strategy](#) This strategy considers how opportunities can be taken to ensure economic growth is linked to sustainable communities with better quality environment for residents and visitors to Colchester. The strategy seeks to ensure Colchester has well designed green spaces that people want to use and respect.
- [Housing Strategy](#) - We are currently developing a new Housing Strategy for Colchester. The strategy sets out our plans for the future for housing and related services.
- [Tree Policy](#) - covers the management of all trees on Council owned land and those trees currently managed by Colchester Borough Council as part of agency agreements with other organisations and public bodies in the Borough.
- [Air Quality Management \(LAQM\)](#) - Local authorities have a statutory duty to monitor and report on Air Quality within the area. The reporting aspect of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) consists of Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) which is done every three years. A new Low emissions strategy is also being drafted by Colchester Borough Council for 2015/16.
- Environmental Protection addresses a wide range of issues across the borough including drainage, air quality, pollution, water quality and public health.
- [The Management Plan](#) for Castle Park, High Woods Country Park and Local Nature Reserves seek to enhance wildlife habitat, encouraging and preserving flora and fauna.
- The Council is responsible for producing the Colchester Development Plan which guides the future growth and development of the Borough. The Focused Review of the Local Plan is underpinned by a [Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\)](#) which tested the environmental, social and economic performance of the Focused Review policies against a set of sustainability objectives.
- There are a wide range of [evidence base documents](#) that help to shape Planning Policy; these are regularly updated and available to view on the Council's website.
- Financial Assistance Policy – provides access to small home improvement loans to enable installation of energy efficiency measures. It is subject to review at present and therefore not available online to view. This link will be updated once the review is completed.
- [Street Care Strategy and Improvement Plan](#) focuses on improving the quality of the environment, achieved by improving litter standards, removing the blight of abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, graffiti and fly-posting, improving feelings of safety and security and engendering a sense of care and respect for the place in which people live, work and visit.



- [The Local Transport Plan](#) focuses on an efficient, effective and sustainable integrated multi-modal transport network with identified measures put in place to accommodate the transport needs of Colchester.
- [Genetically Modified Crops Policy](#) sets out how the Council will monitor and review the potential hazard GM Crops pose to residents of the Borough and the local environment.
- [Waste Strategy](#) addresses how Colchester will deal with its waste in the future.
- [Street Services SPD](#) addresses effective waste management and recycling in new development.
- [Sustainable Construction SPD](#) works to improve the sustainability of new buildings.
- [Cycling Delivery Strategy SPD](#) addresses sustainable transport and cycling provision.
- [Procurement Strategy](#) promotes long-term sustainability by reducing the carbon footprint through our supply chain

The Council regularly develops, refreshes and replaces strategies, policies and plans. Once this strategy is adopted it will play an important part in the work that we do as a Council, it will be a key consideration when policies and strategies are under review. It will assist other service areas to consider the impacts of their work on the environment.

## 6. Our Environmental Sustainability Priorities

In order to achieve our environmental sustainability vision, we have identified 2 strategic priorities:

### Strategic Priority 1

**'Community Leadership' by reducing the environmental impact of Colchester Borough Council's Buildings, Services and Operations**

#### Key Objectives:

- Meet targets in CO2e reduction.
- Show community leadership by making further commitments to reduce carbon emissions.
- Embed green procurement.
- Reduce energy use.
- Assess opportunities for saving water.
- Support our staff to be greener.
- Improve our housing stock.
- Improve recycling performance.

### Strategic Priority 2

**'Building resilient communities' by working with Colchester's Residents, Businesses and Third Sector Organisations.**

#### Key Objectives:

- Support local communities to help them to become more resilient to climate change.
- Align our own strategies to enable a collaborative approach with external partners.
- Develop, create and promote opportunities for environmental understanding, to help retain rural skills and grow the local green economy.
- Identify sources of grant and match funding.
- Create opportunities to reduce energy costs and use in our communities.
- Identify opportunities to deliver sustainable transport.
- Increase the number of warmer, greener homes.
- Encourage residents and businesses to access information about environmental sustainability online.
- Work to reduce fuel poverty.
- Engage with partner agencies that could support us in the delivery of sustainability projects.
- Support activities and projects that meet the 'buy local' agenda to keep trade local.

## 6.1 Strategic Priority 1: Community Leadership

**To achieve this we will:**

### **6.1.1 Reduce the environmental impact of Colchester Borough Council's Buildings, Services and Operations**

As outlined within the Delivery Plan, we will:

- Meet targets in CO2e reduction.
- Show community leadership by making further commitments to reduce carbon emissions.
- Reduce CO2e emissions from all Council buildings, operations and services by operating a carbon management plan.
- Embed green procurement by making informed choices about the way we buy products and services. Partners and suppliers are required to minimise the amount of construction waste going to landfill.
- Look at opportunities to reduce energy use in our own buildings by monitoring the effectiveness where energy efficiency measures have been installed and applying this method to other locations.
- Monitor our transport use.
- Access opportunities for rain harvesting and grey water collection systems for Council buildings and operations.
- Make recycling easier, particularly for people living in flats.
- Make improvements to our housing stock to make them more energy efficient and reduce fuel poverty.

### **6.1.2 Support our staff**

As outlined within the Delivery Plan, we will:

- Work with staff to raise awareness of energy usage and encourage carbon footprint ownership.
- Ensure consistency between initiatives for staff and residents, and encourage actions which can be applied at home or at work.
- Create a 'carbon reduction culture' working with both new and existing staff to help them understand environmental issues and take ownership of their own work and home environments.
- Encourage staff to think about how to reduce waste and save energy.

## 6.2 Strategic Priority 2: Building resilient communities

### To achieve this we will:

#### 6.2.1 Work with Colchester's residents, businesses and third sector organisations

As outlined within the Delivery Plan, we will:

- Support local communities to help them become resilient to climate change.
- Align our strategies to enable a collaborative approach with external partners to achieve environmental sustainability.
- Develop, create and promote opportunities for enhancement of environmental understanding, which will help retain rural skills and grow the local green economy.
- Identify sources of grant and match funding.
- Look at opportunities to reduce costs and save energy in our communities.
- Identify opportunities to deliver sustainable transport.
- Ensure environmental sustainability information is available online to promote self-service.
- Inform and encourage behaviour change which will help to build the resilience of communities.
- Encourage people to make more informed choices and understand the environmental impact decisions made will have on Colchester's future.

#### 6.2.2 Support for residents

As outlined within the Delivery Plan, we will:

- Support residents to reduce energy usage which will positively impact on their CO2e emissions.
- Provide information and advice to local communities so that new community groups will emerge to address local issues.
- Work in partnership to deliver community events to enable residents to learn from the experience of community champions.
- Work collaboratively with the third sector to deliver projects which help to build resilient communities.
- Reduce the number of tenants who live in fuel poverty through making improvements to the Council's own housing stock.
- Take a multi-agency approach to reduce fuel poverty amongst owner-occupiers.

## 7. Equality and Diversity

Equality and diversity is a key cross-cutting theme identified in our delivery plan. Equality and diversity issues have been considered as part of the development of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy through carrying out an [equality impact assessment \(EQIA\)](#).

## 8. Implementation and Monitoring of the Strategy

This strategy represents a challenging vision for the Council.

To ensure that the key priorities are delivered a delivery plan has been developed which is included as appendix one. It outlines the actions to be carried out over the next five years;

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be reviewed and progress against the delivery plan will be monitored. The delivery plan will be updated annually and a progress report will be published on the Council's website.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be communicated as widely as possible. Some of the ways in which we will do this are to:

- Develop a robust Communications Plan to communicate the Delivery Plan;
- Align internal strategies when under review;
- Involve partners to align actions with their work and strategies.

## 9. Appendix

<b>Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan</b>				
<b>Priority 1 – ‘Community Leadership’ by reducing our environmental impact of Council’s Buildings, Services and Operations.</b>				
<b>Key Deliverable 1.0 - Meet targets in CO2 reduction by 2020.</b>				
<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 1.0.1	Aim to meet 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 (from baseline year 2006/7) to assist the Council in meeting an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.	Implement a new 5 year Carbon Management Plan by end of 2016 which will help to identify that a 40% reduction is achievable (this will depend on implementing a LACM plan where projects identified can achieve a further 2000 tonnes of carbon savings.).	Council can demonstrate reduction in environmental impact which shows community leadership and its commitment to environmental sustainability.	Corporate Facilities Manager and Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.0.2	Publish our Greenhouse Gas Report annually.	Report completed in accordance with current guidance from Low Carbon Trust/ DECC and published on CBC website.	Clear assessment of our targets against our carbon reduction targets.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.0.3	Complete a benchmark exercise with other Councils on measuring carbon foot print. Sharing good practice and measuring of performance.	Identify method of good practice and create template by end of April 2016. Complete benchmark exercise by end of 2017.	A measurement of our own performance against peers will allow for a focus on improvement activity.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.0.4	Identify most efficient use of fuel for fleet vehicles by end of 2016.	Complete annual report on fuel use for fleet vehicles and make recommendations for vehicle upgrades/changes.	A clear understanding of how the Council is reducing CO2 emissions from individual vehicles, even if the overall impacts greater due to a fleet vehicle increase to meet need.	Fleet and Depot Manager.

<b>Key Deliverable 1.1 - Show community leadership by making further commitments to reduce carbon emissions.</b>				
<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 1.1.1	CBC to make a public commitment to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	CBC to become a signatory of the Covenant of Lord Mayors by end of 2016.	CBC is committed to reducing carbon emissions and operating more sustainably.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.1.2	CBC to make a strategic commitment to reducing carbon emissions.	CBC to sign up to Climate Local by end of 2016.	Provides ongoing commitment made to reduce carbon emissions and progression from Nottingham Declaration.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.1.3	Meet statutory reporting requirements under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA).	Publication of HECA report March 2015.	Identifies progress made and new focus areas for the future.	HECA Monitoring Project Team, led by Sustainability & Projects Officer.

### Key Deliverable 1.2 - Embed green procurement.

ID Code Source	Description of Milestone	Output	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 1.2.1	Environmental sustainability is applied to procurement process to ensure best value and best practice are being applied.	Align environmental sustainability strategy aspirations with the procurement strategy by end of April 2015.	Strategy and delivery plan to reflect work in most areas of business activity including construction, furniture, IT equipment and transport.	Commercial Procurement Manager and Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.2.2	Seek to ensure that CBC selects products and services that minimise environmental impacts.	Implement changes to policies by end of 2015.	By making informed choices about the products we buy, we will make a difference to the environment.	Commercial Procurement Manager.

### Key Deliverable 1.3 - Look at opportunities to reduce energy use.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 1.3.1	Monitor and reduce energy use in our own buildings by 31 March 2016.	Identify areas where reduction in energy could be secured.	Able to use lessons learned from existing measures to see what is most effective in reducing energy use.	Corporate Facilities Manager and Utility Company - Bellerby Smith.
ESS 1.3.2	Identify opportunities for development of low carbon private sector homes by end of 2015.	Complete a viability study.	Sites identified within Colchester for development of low carbon homes.	Private Sector Housing Manager.
ESS 1.3.3	Develop Heat Maps for Northern Gateway by end of 2016.	Department of Energy and Climate Change funding for Viability study to be secured by end of 2015.	Identify suitable technologies and approaches to energy generation, distribution and supply; highlight opportunities for Northern Gateway.	Economic Growth Manager.



**Key Deliverable 1.4 - Assess opportunities for rain water harvesting and/or grey water collection systems for council buildings and operations.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 1.4.1	Identify opportunities for rainwater harvesting and/or grey water collection systems on Council owned buildings in Parks and Country Parks.	Viability Assessment to be completed.	Sustainable watering systems in place for parks and country parks where viable by end of 2017.	Park Ranger.
ESS 1.4.2	Encourage drought resistant planting to reduce the need for watering.	<p>1) Explore opportunity for competition/display with Community organisations.</p> <p>2) Review pilot for dry garden at Castle Park, to see if viable to extend into wider area to support drought resistant planting schemes by end of 2015.</p>	Planting across CBC owned gardens and parks are more drought resistant.	Park Ranger - to lead, with support of Sustainability & Projects Officer bringing community partners together.
ESS 1.4.3	Reduce mains water use at recycling plant in Shrub End.	Assess the opportunity for rain water collected at the Shrub End depot to be used for cleaning of cans in a new can recycling process by end of 2017.	Use of mains water to clean cans for recycling will be kept to a minimum and water collected on site will be well utilised.	Fleet and Depot Manager.

### Key Deliverable 1.5 - Supporting our staff.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 1.5.1	Environmental Sustainability awareness learning programme to be implemented by end of 2016.	Run two staff initiatives per year.	Staff have improved level of awareness of how their role impacts on energy use; CO2 reduction targets and achievements.	Training Officer, supported by Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.5.2	Staff aware of their own carbon footprint, and what they can do to minimise it by end of 2017.	Staff will submit energy saving suggestions; these will be recorded to assess current levels of awareness after each training initiative.	Staff have a good level of awareness and want to make savings and reduce CO2 emissions by end of 2016.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 1.5.3	Energy usage and environmental impact information available on website with links on the HUB (staff online portal) by end of 2016.	Links regularly circulated to highlight new and updated information via internal bulletins.	Staff are able to access environmental impact information easily by end of 2015.	Sustainability & Projects Officer (with support from external organisations such as Energy Savings Trust).

### Key Deliverable 1.6 - Housing stock improvement.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 1.6.1	Photo Voltaic (PVs) fitted to all housing stock where appropriate.	PV Project completed once all viable properties have had systems installed or the Feed in Tariff reduces below financial model criteria.	2560 Homes improved and more energy efficient (760 properties completed to date with a further 1800 anticipated to be completed by September 2015 depending on FiT rate).	Housing Asset Manager.
ESS 1.6.2	Viability of new energy efficiency measures for housing stock.	Energy assessments to be completed all properties identified by end of 2020.	Clear direction of management of stock.	Housing Asset Manager.

Key Deliverable 1.7 - Improve recycling performance.				
ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 1.7.1	Complete delivery plan for flat recycling project by end of 2016.	Undertake exercise to identify properties which do not have recycling facilities (i.e. flats) by end of 2016.	Flats recycling will be measured for improvements and delivery will be shaped around solutions offering best results by end of 2016.	Waste Strategy Officer.
ESS 1.7.2	Develop recycling and reuse projects with external partners and explore/ apply for external funding opportunities to fund this work.	<p>1) Work with community organisations to identify projects that will capture the imagination of local people.</p> <p>2) Seek funding for Waste Bag Recycling Project and link up with Castle Park for public engagement.</p>	<p>1) Increased awareness of how to work with community partners to deliver pilot projects in connection to re-use and recycling.</p> <p>2) Increased awareness of drought resistant planting through the Waste Bag Recycling Project.</p> <p>3) Multi agency approach to improving recycling and thinking more sustainably.</p>	Waste Strategy Officer.
ESS 1.7.3	Benchmark recycling performance with other local authorities.	Results to be measured and comparison made by end of 2015.	Able to identify further ways in which recycling might be improved by end of 2015.	Waste Strategy Officer.
ESS 1.7.4	Establish metal can sorter at Shrub End depot.	Viability study completed by end of 2014. New machine installed by end of 2017.	Better quality recycling of cans from January 2018.	Fleet and Depot Manager.

## Priority 2 – ‘Building resilient communities’ by working with Colchester’s Residents, Businesses and the Third Sector.

### Key Deliverable 2.1 - Supporting Local communities to help them become resilient to climate change.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 2.1.1	Keep residents informed about changes to Green Deal, ECO and local energy efficiency opportunities/ measures from April 2015.	Actively promote opportunities to local residents and work with Zone Teams to help raise awareness within the local communities.	Residents will be able to access what they are entitled to and make informed choices about making their homes more energy efficient from April 2015.	Community Initiatives Project Officer.
ESS 2.1.2	Support the development of community driven projects (such as energy groups and transition towns).	Work with local Environmental Charities and Community groups to develop new projects that will fill gaps in provision, and help them to access external start-up funding.	Resident groups will feel empowered and address issues that affect them locally by end of 2015.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 2.1.3	Enable better access to developing local emergency plans for Town & Parish Councils from April 2015.	Continue to work with the group of District Emergency Planning Officers DEPO to assist in the roll out of training courses to support development of community based emergency plans.	Rural and Coastal Communities most at risk will be better prepared for emergencies.  Local Town and Parish Councils across Colchester will understand how to develop a local emergency plan and the resources available to them.	Health, Safety and Emergency Planning Advisor.
ESS 2.1.4	Improve support for vulnerable residents during cold weather spells from Autumn/Winter15.	Public Health leaflet ‘Keep warm, keep well’ disseminated to vulnerable residents by end of September 15.	Reduced number of excess winter deaths, and improved living conditions for vulnerable people during cold weather.	Joint approach via the CBH Resident Engagement Team, Community Initiatives Team and Zone Team.

**Key Deliverable 2.2 - Alignment of Colchester Borough Council strategies to enable a collaborative approach with external partners to achieve environmental sustainability.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 2.2.1	Develop a new Low Emissions strategy by end of 2015.	Work with ECC/ CBC colleagues and Defra funded air quality specialist to identify steps to improve air quality in Colchester	Reduce harmful emissions from road transport, while simultaneously seeking reductions in greenhouse gas emissions where feasible	Environmental Protection Manager.
ESS 2.2.2	Develop a new Housing strategy by end of 2015.	Work with a Project Group made up of external partners to identify steps to fulfil sustainable housing requirements.	A clear connection between the strategies and how they will work side by side, in particular linking fuel poverty actions and development of sustainable homes.	Strategic Housing Manager.
ESS 2.2.3	Work in partnership with Social Housing providers to develop sustainability projects to support wider number of Colchester residents by end of 2016.	Identify opportunities for collaborative projects between CBC and Colchester based social housing providers.	Supporting people who are most vulnerable in our communities to reuse, recycle, reduce energy costs and think more sustainably.	Strategic Housing Manager.
ESS 2.2.4	To enable partnership working and achievement of joint outcomes with local providers focussing on environmental sustainability.	Monthly meetings to review projects and identify joint approach to achieving targets, starting in April 2015.	Strengthening our way of working with external agencies to achieve joint objectives.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.

**Key Deliverable 2.3 - Develop, create and promote opportunities for developing environmental understanding which will help retain rural skills and grow the local green economy.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 2.3.1	Development and retention of rural skills and local training opportunities.	Support rural training provider to access external funding and look at ways in which we can assist to promote training opportunities for young people in Colchester.	Improved local travel options; supporting local trades; retaining traditional skills; supporting alternative apprenticeship schemes.	Enterprise and Tourism Manager.
ESS 2.3.2	Support growth of local projects that provide access to locally grown produce to start at the end of 2015.	Work to promote local projects such as the Farmers markets in Colchester.	Working in partnership with community organisations to reduce the need for importing of food sources; encourages the use of seasonal food which supports the wider 'buy local' agenda and the FSB 'Keep Trade Local' manifesto.	Enterprise and Tourism Manager & Sustainability and Projects Officer.
ESS 2.3.3	Support green business growth	Identify green business opportunities in Colchester and work with ECC to enable ERDF and other appropriate EU funding to support growth of the sector.	Benefits to local economy and advancement of green business in Colchester.	Enterprise and Tourism Manager.

### Key Deliverable 2.4 - Identify sources of grant and match funding.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 2.4.1	<p>Deliver pilot project to support vulnerable people who cannot switch through the Big Community Switch programme.</p> <p>Completed wood recycling viability study for Colchester.</p>	Secure small grant funding for partnership projects to deliver community projects focussing on environmental sustainability, external funding applications for projects up to value of £10k.	Vulnerable people are better supported and resources in Colchester are used in a more sustainable way.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 2.4.2	Develop a new funding resource for community groups and local charities to use as guide to setting up new environmentally focussed community projects by end of 2016.	Work with Community Groups to develop a 'Green Book' listing green funding opportunities and case studies to inspire local sustainability projects.	New community groups and charities are better able to form, and identify potential funding opportunities, with a focus on addressing local need.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 2.4.3	Opportunities for match funding to be identified for larger Community and Council led sustainability projects by end of 2016.	Identify European funding that will support the development of new larger scale projects.	<p>1) Creating opportunities to grow the green economy and complete a range of viability studies will emerge. (Energy/ Heating/ Low Carbon Homes)</p> <p>2) Support community projects that are addressing the effects of climate change on a larger scale (such as coastal defences and protection of biodiversity).</p>	Funding Coordinator.



**Key Deliverable 2.5 - Look at opportunities to reduce costs and save energy use in our communities.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 2.5.1	Encourage residents and customers to sign up for the Big Community Switch.	Deliver a minimum of 2 x energy auctions per annum spring/summer, autumn/winter	Residents will save on their energy bills, which will reduce fuel poverty in Colchester.	Sustainability and Projects Officer.
ESS 2.5.2	Encourage SMEs to take part in the iChoosr brokerage scheme to reduce energy costs and switch to appropriate business energy meters.	Raise profile of the rolling brokerage service run through iChoosr and accessed through the CBC website.	Businesses will pay less for energy because they have switched to business tariffs and exchanged residential meters for business energy meters from January 2015.	Sustainability & Projects Officer, Communications Business Partner.
ESS 2.5.3	Energy switching information to be included in sign up packs for every new CBH Resident by end of 2015.	Asset Management to notify CBH resident engagement officers of action required by end of April 2015.	All new tenants will have energy information and Big Community Switch sign-up information in their welcome packs (at sign-up).	Sustainability & Projects Officer, working with CBH Resident engagement & Housing Asset Manager.
ESS 2.5.4	Look at the viability of delivering Energy Assessments for Private Sector homeowners by end of 2015.	CBH Officer carrying out Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) on our own housing stock will look at the viability of offering this as a new service by end of 2015.	<p>1) New service for borough wide, private sector home owners to access energy assessment service (and potential new income generation for the Council/ CBH).</p> <p>2) Residents equipped with EPC information so they can improve the energy efficiency of their homes.</p> <p>3) Improved way of working with Private Sector Landlords to raise SAP Ratings (before legislative changes in 2016)</p>	Commercial Manager & CBH Property Services.

**Key Deliverable 2.7 - Identify opportunities to deliver sustainable transport.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 2.7.1	Realise opportunities for sustainable transport infrastructure and assess opportunities for new projects.	<p>1) Develop a new Transport Strategy as part of the review of the Local Plan process. The new Local Plan to be adopted in 2017.</p> <p>2) Work with the Highways and Transportation Authorities and transport operators to secure investment into Colchester for sustainable transport.</p>	The Council takes a long term view on how sustainable transport solutions will be part of the local infrastructure.	Transportation Policy Manager.

### Key Deliverable 2.8 - Warmer Greener homes.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 2.8.1	Work with Private Landlords to deliver a range of informative events on sustainable homes; energy efficiency and work in partnership with local landlord networks.	1) Rolling programme of landlord forum events to be developed by Private Sector Housing Team. 2) Delivery of bi-annual sustainability events where Private Sector Landlords are encouraged to attend.	Private Landlords better equipped with information to improve standard of rented homes.	1).Private Sector Housing Manager. 2) Sustainability and Projects Officer.
ESS 2.8.2	Private Sector Housing Stock Survey completed by end of 2016/17.	1) To be completed by the end of March 2015 2) Survey results to be analysed and reported by August 2015; 3) Financial Assistance Policy amended to target assistance to meet need identified by the stock survey by the end of March 2016.	1) Better able to identify homes eligible for ECO funding and retrofit projects. 2) Range of financial assistance offers available to target areas/ household types.	Private Sector Housing Manager.
ESS 2.8.3	To improve the Energy Efficiency of private sector housing in Colchester and contribute to a reduction of households in fuel poverty.	1) Respond to service requests, undertake HHSRS excess cold assessments and take appropriate action to ensure dwellings have an effective and affordable means of heating. 2) Explore partnership working with Green deal provider. 3) Link in with any programmed stock improvement being undertaken by CBH with a view to supporting & assisting leaseholders and freeholders.	1) Excess cold hazards removed through formal, informal and grant activities. 2) Increased number of households removed from fuel poverty. by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015.	Private Sector Housing Manager.
ESS 2.8.4	Promote energy efficient building methods to ensure homes consume fewer resources to heat.	Review guidance for Developers on building sustainable homes and look at opportunities for training Developers on ISO14001 - Sustainable Development.	Developers have clear guidance on next step on from the Code for Sustainable Homes, with access to accreditation and measuring quality.	Sustainability and Projects Officer & Planning Policy Officer.

**Key Deliverable 3.0 - Provide a readily accessible online section on environmental sustainability for Colchester residents.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>Description of Milestone</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 3.0.1	Maximise the effectiveness of self-serve for customers so they can access information about environmental sustainability issues online.	Identify and prepare resources and media options by end of 2015.	Customers are able to find information and advice on everything from energy efficiency; reducing energy costs; to leading on their own environmental projects.	Research and Engagement Manager and the Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 3.0.2	Incorporate 'Channel Shift' strategy into addressing environmental sustainability for Colchester residents by end of 2017.	<p>1) Assess how people are accessing environmental sustainability information online and what people are searching for;</p> <p>2) Content for website to be refreshed and signed off by end of 2017.</p>	Ensures delivery of services that are needed, through the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective means.	Head of Customer Services, Research and Engagement Manager and the Sustainability & Projects Officer.

### Key Deliverable 3.1 - Work to reduce fuel poverty in Colchester.

ID Code Source	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
ESS 3.1.1	Support most vulnerable residents, who are most at risk of fuel poverty, and help raise awareness of the help available to residents on low incomes.	<p>1) Identify remedial action home owners can take to make their homes cheaper to heat and light.</p> <p>2) Use data from housing stock survey to help identify most at risk geographical areas.</p> <p>3) Promote insulation programmes; and access to winter fuel payments.</p>	<p>Residents in or facing fuel poverty are better able to access information on keeping homes warm during cold weather spells by end of 2016.</p> <p>Residents have better access to payments and initiatives that they are entitled to claim.</p>	Community Initiatives Project Officer and Private Sector Housing Manager.
ESS 3.1.2	Engage with local press and ensure activities well promoted by end of 2015.	To be incorporated into the Comms plan April 2015.	Awareness of fuel poverty is raised by end of 2015.	Communications Business Partner for Sustainability.
ESS 3.1.3	Deliver a range of Community Events to focus on reducing people living in fuel poverty and staying warm during cold weather spells by end of 2016.	<p>1) Zones to incorporate fuel poverty advice into existing 'coffee and chat events' that run as a programme throughout the year.</p> <p>2) Work with CBH Resident engagement officers to share information and promote support services to Council tenants.</p>	A rolling programme of community events focusing on keeping warm in winter and reducing fuel poverty becomes business as usual for Zone Teams by end of 2016.	Group Manager. (Zones)

**Key Deliverable 3.2 - Engage with partner agencies that could support us in the delivery of sustainability projects.**

<b>ID Code Source</b>	<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will achieve it</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
ESS 3.2.1	Work with key partners to take a collaborative approach to 'climate change adaptation' by end of 2016.	Work with Community groups and local charities to develop a list of potential projects addressing local need and work together to identify delivery partners.	Increased levels of volunteering opportunities; improved collaborative approach to address sustainability issues; access to a wider range of community projects by end of 2016.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
ESS 3.2.2	Set up Sustainability Partnership working group as a one stop shop for community groups to access specialist advice and support, which will help during the set up of new projects.	<p>1) Support the development of a national group through the National Energy Action (NEA);</p> <p>2) Work with ECC, RCCE, Natural England, National Trust, RSPB, Environment Agency and local environment groups to develop access to support at a local level.</p>	A one stop shop where community organisations can access specialist advice and support on sustainability and biodiversity issues.	Sustainability & Projects Officer.
3.2.3	Continued participation of local schools and colleges, Friends groups, Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex Forest Education Initiative, Walk Colchester and Colchester Natural History Society in country parks and countryside sites	Continued efforts to maintain and increase participation.	Increase of tasks, events and initiatives in country parks and countryside sites with a nature conservation purpose.	Countryside Sites Manager.

# 10. Glossary

## 10.1 The Nottingham Declaration

In February 2007 Colchester Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration (NDC) on Climate Change. The NDC is a tool to secure commitment from UK Councils to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. Installing energy efficiency measures enables us to reduce our CO2 emissions and improving access to energy efficiency advice helps us to improve social and economic problems such as fuel poverty and support local business.

Objectives laid out in the NDC included:

- On-going work to reduce the Council's carbon footprint;
- Become a community leader;
- Deliver sustainable services;
- Use our powers through better procurement, private sector housing and spatial policy.

### Targets outlined within the Nottingham Declaration

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) required that we act on issues around climate change. The Council chose from 25 priorities from the National Performance Indicators set out by Government.

For CBC 5 of these priorities related to climate change:

- CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations;
- Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area;
- Planning to adapt to climate change;
- Air quality and primary PM10 emissions reduction;
- Improved local biodiversity proportion of local sites with positive conservation management.

## 10.2 Climate Local

The LGA [Climate Local](#) commitment offers the Council a 'next step' approach to this on-going commitment to reduce our CO2 emissions, and is considered by Local Government to be a succession to the Nottingham Declaration. It offers a framework that can reflect local priorities and opportunities for action, and supports Councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions, and to improve their resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate.

## 10.3 Covenant of Mayors

The [Covenant of Mayors](#) is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective by 2020.

## 10.4 The Transition Network

The [Transition Network](#) is made up of towns and cities planning for a low energy future in response to the challenge of peak oil and climate change.

More information can be found on <http://www.transitionnetwork.org>

Transition groups adapt to their own local circumstances in order to engage a significant proportion of the people in their community and a number of groups in Colchester have emerged over recent years, including Wivenhoe and Nayland, both focusing on finding local solutions.

## 10.5 HECA Reporting

Guidance issued by DECC in July 2012, under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), required all English authorities with housing responsibilities to prepare a report by 31 March 2013 setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area.

The [guidance under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 \(HECA\)](#) for English local authorities with housing responsibilities was published on 26 July 2012. It sets out requirements for those authorities to report on the measures they propose to take to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all the residential accommodation in their area.

DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have also published [Improving energy efficiency in buildings: resources for local authorities](#). It is a resource for local authority personnel who are involved in climate change mitigation in the built environment to support the planning and delivery of projects. It brings together and categorises tools, models, knowledge, case studies and datasets which can be used and adapted at local levels to meet local authority needs.

A copy of Colchester Borough Council's [HECA Report is available to view online](#)



## 10.6 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

Buildings in the UK are responsible for almost 50% of energy consumption and carbon emissions. Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs) give buildings energy efficiency ratings between A and G with recommendations for improvements.

EPCs are required for a new building or existing building which is being sold or leased – a fine can be issued if this certificate is not produced when requested.

DECs are required for public buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> and the certificate must be displayed – a fine can be issued if this certificate is not displayed or produced when requested. Town Hall, Angel Court and Leisure World require this certificate and it must be reviewed annually or subject to major alternations or improvements. These are provided by our energy management company.

## 10.7 ECO & Green Deal

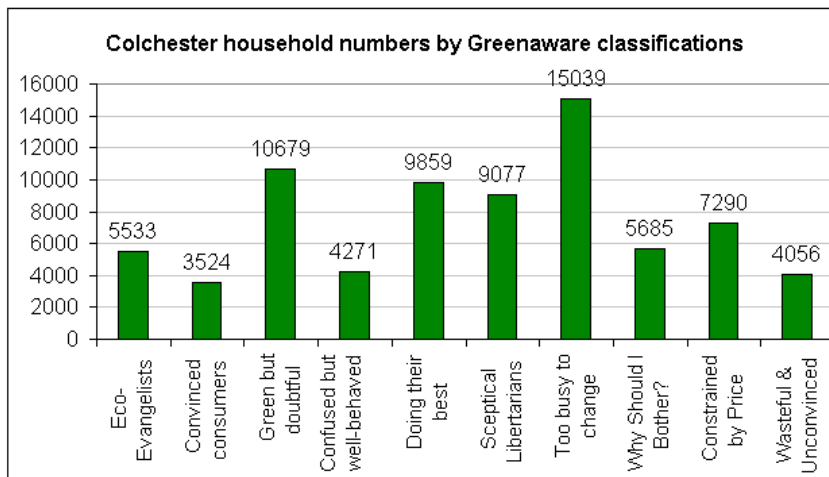
The Government states that both Green Deal and ECO are designed to reduce carbon emissions from the domestic and non-domestic building stock which is essential if the UK is to meet its statutory domestic carbon budgets.

ECO was introduced in January 2013, with targets to be met by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, delivery of these initial ambitious targets have been extended to March 2017, with the scheme proposed to run up until at least 2022.

In March 2014, when the Government carried out consultation on '[The future of ECO](#)' the proposals made for ECO were intended to increase the flexibility of the scheme and lower overhead costs associated with its implementation. The proposals within the consultation suggested extending ECO with a new provision for support to enable delivery of carbon-saving energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, which will alleviate the risk of fuel poverty. CBC joined forces with the HECA East Group to develop a response to the consultation (with Councils from Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk taking part). The consultation recognised the importance of access to accurate and timely cost information to ensure consumers can better understand the schemes available to them, and concluded that the scheme needed to be extended so that targets for delivery provided longer term certainty.

The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund was a new incentive active between June - July 2014 offering a new incentive to claim back up to £7,600 towards energy efficiency improvements such as solid wall insulation, heating and glazing. Further funding rounds are expected and the Council has a designated area on the [website](#) so up to date information can be quickly disseminated when updates for residents are available.

## 10.8 Green Aware Reporting



Data source: Mosaic household classifications and Mosaic public sector data

We are able to drill down by street and postcode to analyse household types, and their inclination towards green issues. An example of the type of analysis we can provide is shown in the table above.

## 10.9 Biodiversity Duty

Defra provides guidance for public authorities on [implementing the Biodiversity Duty](#). Public authorities have a key role to play in the conservation of biodiversity because the Duty is relevant to a wide variety of public authority functions and services. The guidance aims to help all staff to have regard to biodiversity in undertaking their work, and to inform senior executives about the opportunities to take account of biodiversity at corporate level.

The guidance draws on a wide range of information sources that provide advice on different activities and functions of public sector organisations. The guidance is intended to assist public authorities in meeting the Biodiversity Duty but it does not provide a definitive interpretation of legislation or provide exhaustive recommendations for conserving biodiversity.

## 11. Membership

Colchester Borough Council is a member of the following groups:

- Carbon Action Network (CAN);
- Carbon Reduction Officers Essex (CO2RE);
- UK Homes Energy Conservation Association (UK HECA);
- The Essex Resilience Forum;
- Eastern Homes Energy Officers Network (E-HEON);
- National Energy Action (NEA).