

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021-23 (DRAFT)

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1. Reduce carbon emissions from our buildings and fleet to achieve a net zero carbon footprint for the Council by 2030		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
1.1 Development of a new Carbon Management Plan (CMP) based on insight and evidence gathered from a detailed pathway modelling of the current CBC footprint	Work with the Carbon Trust to develop a new CMP for 2022-2027	April 21/2022
1.2 Review CMP 2016-2020 to address any outstanding projects and see if these can be carried out	Review projects to identify technical feasibility and budget available	Jan 21/Dec 21
1.3 Continue to report on our emissions annually, and look to collect more refined data on our indirect emissions	Explore ways of accessing data from contractors on their emissions in relation to procured goods and services Review other data sources and report annually.	Reported annually
1.4 Take steps to ensure the council's future electricity supply is provided by 100% renewably generated sources	Source Council's electricity from a supplier providing 100% renewable electricity	Dec 20/Apr 21
1.5 Review our estate and assets to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency of heating, lighting and cooling systems	New Estate Asset Strategy to include decarbonisation plan	April 21
1.6 Decarbonisation of Rowan House, the Council's main office	Replacement of existing heating and ventilation systems with heat pump. Also adding in extra roof insulation and LED lighting Installation of 20 electric vehicle (EV) charge points at Rowan House	Jan 21/Dec 21 Jan 21 onwards
1.7 Redevelopment of Shrub End Depot to decarbonise the site, improve management of recyclables and help support the transition of the fleet to electric vehicles (EVs)	Installation of EV charge points. Improvements to building heating and lighting systems Adding in storage facility into depot to store recyclables	Nov 20/Feb 22

1. Reduce carbon emissions from our buildings and fleet to achieve a net zero carbon footprint for the Council by 2030		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
1.8 Creation of an Asset (Housing) Management Strategy that will establish plans for reducing emissions from the housing stock	Reviewing plans for upgrading assets and setting an appropriate target for reducing emissions from the housing stock	Jan 21/Sept 21
1.9 Increasing the energy performance of 100 Homes to reduce energy use and tackle fuel poverty	100 Homes Project – Purchasing 100 former Council homes and increasing their energy performance certificate (EPC) rating to an average of B.	Sept 20/Mar 22
1.10 Decarbonising the housing stock through the Housing Improvement Programme (HIP)	Works to upgrade most energy inefficient properties to an EPC of C or above. Replacement of heating system at Mary Frank House with an air source heat pump (ASHP) Installation of monitoring equipment in accordance with Heating regulations Boiler replacement works – Replacement of outdated and inefficient boilers	April 21/March 22
1.11 Redevelopment of Elfreda House to reduce carbon emissions	Redevelopment of Elfreda House to Future Homes 2025 standard	2021/2023
1.12 Take a phased approach to the renewal of the fleet to meet our target of having a fully electric vehicle fleet by 2030	Publishing a first draft of a fleet transition programme towards 2030 In 2021, 15 EVs and 4 hybrid vehicles will be purchased to replace existing small vehicles fueled by diesel	Sept 20/Dec 20 2021

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Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
1.13 Creation of an EV charging Strategy to guide provision of EV charging at housing developments and in Council owned car parks	Production of an initial strategy to set out guidance for provision of EVCPs	Mar 21/Aug 21
1.14 Explore design principles for a new Crematorium site to ensure this is designed to the highest environmental standards	Research of standards and technologies available to decarbonise Crematoria.	2021
1.15 Redevelop Rugby Club site so this is built to highest environmental standards	Include sustainability and energy approaches into design brief.	2021

2. Produce Renewable Energy		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
2.1 Continued development of Northern Gateway Heat Network site to generate low carbon energy	Construction of the main energy centre and beginning to build connections to residential, commercial, health and leisure sites.	Q2 2021/Connections up until 2024
2.2 Explore the creation of a microgrid to link up new sites of solar PV generation to Council assets to decarbonise our energy use	Conduct feasibility study	2021

3. Enhance biodiversity and protect our environment		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
3.1 Commission a natural capital review for sustainability projects/carbon offsetting investigation	Consultant will conduct review of natural asset register and discuss options with officers	July 2021
3.2 Plant 200,000 trees by 2024 as part of the Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project to benefit biodiversity and for capturing carbon emissions.	<p>Volunteer planting days in Autumn for residents to help with planting around 20,000 trees on 11 different Council sites.</p> <p>Work with relevant experts to ensure planting sites are chosen appropriately to ensure tree planting will benefit biodiversity. Environmental Impact Assessments will be undertaken on new tree planting sites.</p> <p>Establishment of tree seed nursery at Highwoods Country Park so trees can be grown from seed for future use in the project.</p>	<p>Autumn 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
3.3 Review the Council's Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, exploring opportunities to tackle climate change and to safeguard and enhance existing habitats and species.	Data and consultation will be used to inform the strategy	April 2021

3. Enhance biodiversity and protect our environment		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
3.4 Improve the ecological and amenity value of the riverside lake and island near the Castle Park to enhance biodiversity, capture carbon and allow better access to the site.	Plans in early development and will be expanded on in future update of the action plan	TBC
3.5 Ceasing the use of glyphosate herbicides in Council operations through a phased approach as a way to manage weeds, and encouraging other stakeholders to do the same	Agreement reached to phase out glyphosate use for general maintenance by end of March 2021 Alternative ways of managing weeds without glyphosate will commence at the start of the growing season	Sept 2020/April 2021 April 2021
3.6 Trialing 'no mow' or reduced mow approaches to rewild Council green spaces and support biodiversity, particularly pollinators.	14 green spaces have been identified where areas of reduced frequency mowing will be implemented to allow for the growth of grasses and wildflowers, with rewilding approach developed through engagement with Town and Parish Councils Engagement with local schools has led to pupils producing designs for signs explaining why the Council is changing its mowing regimes.	Summer 2021/Ongoing Ongoing

4. Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
4.1 Continue to support local organisations to encourage active travel through the Travel Plan Club	Work and support local organisations to encourage active travel and reduce reliance on private car for commuting through creating workplace travel plans	Jan 21/Dec 21 – Annual plan
4.2 Implement the Electric Cargo (eCargo) bike project to reduce emissions from travel and operations of the Councils and local organisations	<p>Using eCargo bikes within Council operations to reduce emissions from travel.</p> <p>Providing eCargo bikes to 10 organisations (project champions) to break down barriers to using eCargo bikes as a sustainable mode of travel for conducting deliveries and other operations.</p> <p>Loaning eCargo bikes out to local organisations to promote this mode of travel, in a ‘try before you buy’ approach.</p>	May 2020/May 2023
4.3 Improve air quality in the borough by promoting the adoption of no idling and encouraging cycling and walking for shorter journeys	<p>No idling behaviour change campaign led by the community.</p> <p>Behaviour change work with a resident community and 4 schools to support walking and cycling for short journeys, particularly through air quality management areas (AQMA’s)</p> <p>Psychological signage encouraging no idling to be installed in East Street/ Brook Street and monitored for effectiveness.</p>	<p>June 2019-June 2021 for behaviour change campaigns</p> <p>August 2020 – August 2022 for signage project (15th Feb 2021-4 July 2022 for experimental studies)</p>

4. Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
4.4 Provide enabling policies and strategies to promote walking and cycling /sustainable travel in Colchester	Influence Colchester Cycling Delivery Strategy	2021
	Vehicle Parking Standards review	2021
	ECC's Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans	2021
	Rail operators Integrated Transport Forum and liaison with Network Rail	Ongoing
	Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership	Ongoing
4.5 Promote walking and cycling routes in Colchester through improving signage and wayfinding	Introduce wayfinding signage along the University to Town Centre routes to encourage walking	2021
	Town to Port wayfinding improvements	2021
	Colchester Station to Hospital wayfinding	2021/22
4.6 Improve infrastructure along the route from North Station to Town Centre to encourage walking and cycling along this route.	Fixing the Link – Project to encourage those arriving at Colchester Station to walk the route to Town Centre through installing better wayfinding and public realm improvements.	2021/2022
4.7 Map and promote the use of the Colchester Orbital	Mapping a circular walking and cycling route around Colchester and ensuring routes are accessible for all.	Summer 2020/Ongoing
	Greening the Orbital and expand route	

4. Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
4.8 Encourage the uptake of alternative sustainable travel methods for work and leisure purposes	<p>Taking part in electric scooter (e-scooter) trial</p> <p>Colchester Future Transport Strategy- working with ECC to reiew the consultation responses ready to finalise the Strategy, and promote schemes which will help implement the initiatives contained within the Strategy.</p> <p>Influence Rapid Transit system linking Garden Communities, park and ride/choose site with town centre, hospital and Colchester Station, route and provision.</p> <p>The Borough Council's Scrutiny Panel to review bus operations in Colchester and to consider how to increase use of this sustainable mode of travel.</p>	<p>Feb - Oct 2021</p> <p>Spring 2021</p> <p>2021/22</p> <p>Spring 2021</p>
4.9 Facilitate walking and cycling in Colchester by providing suitable infrastructure.	<p>Identifying funding for, and a site in, the Town Centre to create a secure cycle parking facility, and plan how this will be managed.</p> <p>Working with Essex County Council (ECC) to support the introduction of infrastructure such as segregated cycle lanes and school streets along key routes in and around Colchester Town Centre.</p> <p>Reviewing S106 funding to plan and work with others to install and improve a range of measures and infrastructure</p> <p>Wivenhoe Trail - identify funding for and implement improvements. Work with partners to agree future maintenance plan.</p>	<p>Dec 20/2021</p> <p>Jan 21/2022</p>

4. Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
	Stanway to Tollgate - identify funding and working with others to initiate improved links	
4.10 Bring an electric vehicle car club to Colchester	Identify funding to create a network of electric car club vehicles in Colchester to support sustainable travel and move away from private car ownership	Jan 21/Dec 21
4.11 Develop actions as part of the Positive Parking Strategy that will help to reduce congestion in the Town Centre and promote sustainability.	<p>Park Active – A project to encourage people to park in car parks on the outside of the town centre – This will help encourage walking and cycling into town and reduce congestion.</p> <p>Installing electric vehicle charge points in Council owned car parks</p> <p>Review the usage and requirements of Council car parks to determine the quantity of parking required, where this should be located and parking tariffs.</p> <p>Promotion of the Park and Ride service in Colchester.</p>	2021/22

5. Provide sustainable waste management and support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
5.1 Improve systems for collecting household waste, recycling, food and garden waste with a focus on waste minimization, increased recycling and composting	<p>Re-establishing textiles recycling collections</p> <p>Rolling out programme to encourage residents to separate cans and glass</p> <p>Improvements in data collection to track recycling collections and identifying where recycling rates can be improved</p> <p>Improving recycling equipment distribution to residents</p>	For all – April 2019 – 31 st March 2022
5.2 Develop trade waste collection service to offer further commercial recycling collections for businesses	Establish profitability of current operations and identify new recycling options for businesses	2021
5.3 Improving communication with Colchester residents to improve participation in recycling and waste minimization work	Establishment of Community Education and Engagement team to deliver this work.	April 2021

5. Provide sustainable waste management and support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
5.4 Work actively within communities to promote recycling, reuse, upcycling and repairing opportunities	Introduction of new Community Engagement and Education Team within Neighbourhood Services, working collaboratively with the Community Engagement Team.	April 2021/ongoing
5.5. Explore trialing smart waste technology to improve efficiency of waste collections in the Borough	Support the introduction of smart waste technology within new developments Explore funding opportunities for the introduction of 'smart' waste bins	Autumn 2021

6. Enable partnerships and community action for sustainability and low carbon development		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
6.1 Support community organisations in the borough to help deliver environmental benefits within communities	<p>Work with community organisations/individuals to highlight their work and help spread the message of their work and provide expertise where required.</p> <p>Support the Dedham Value Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley project team to produce a 5 year Management Plan to conserve and enhance natural beauty.</p>	Ongoing
6.2 Provide opportunities for residents to participate in Council decision making and action on environmental issues	<p>Provision of the 'have your say' option at the Environmental and Sustainability Panel</p> <p>Provision of opportunities for residents to volunteer on Council environmental projects such as tree planting and monitoring air quality</p>	Sept 20 - Ongoing
6.3 Support the Colchester Business Centre (Colbea) to develop policies and practices within their corporate strategy to include corporate environmental responsibility	Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) in Colbea's lease agreement for the North Colchester Business Incubation Centre	March 2021 – Ongoing
6.4 Collaborate with the University of Essex to ensure actions we develop are informed by academic expertise (where appropriate)	<p>Take part in a university 'challenge lab' to co-develop with researchers, solutions to a particular climate challenge in Colchester</p> <p>Build rapport with researchers on existing Council projects, and understand the expertise available at the University</p>	<p>Sept 21/2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

6. Enable partnerships and community action for sustainability and low carbon development		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
6.5 Work with anchor/key organisations in the borough to promote the uptake of sustainable actions across the borough and improve engagement on taking action on climate change.	Creation of a network of key organisations in Colchester to share learning on good practice and provide a platform for ideas developed to be informed by detailed resident engagement.	Apr 21/Ongoing
6.6 Increase engagement with schools in Colchester to promote and support awareness raising and behaviour change around environmental issues	Pilot a project with two primary schools in Colchester to understand the challenges with embedding environmental content into lessons and school life, and use this to inform approaches to help schools reduce their environmental impact	Jan 21/Aug 21
6.7 Develop a Climate Emergency communications and engagement plan which will support the delivery of, and engagement around, the Council's Action Plan.	Survey with residents to help understand how residents prefer hearing about work to tackle the climate emergency. Use this insight to inform content put out on our communication channels.	April 21/July 21
6.8 Collaborate with Essex County Council (ECC) and other local authorities in Essex and those in the UK to share learnings around work on the climate emergency	<p>Take part in Carbon Reduction Across Essex (CORE) meetings with other Essex local authorities.</p> <p>Where appropriate, join grant funding bids with ECC to increase access to funding for environmental projects</p> <p>Participate in national local authority forums such as the Collective for Climate Action to share learning and ask questions about work on the climate emergency.</p>	Ongoing

6. Enable partnerships and community action for sustainability and low carbon development		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
6.9 Communicate with Town and Parish Councils to understand how we can work together to tackle the climate emergency and ensure this reflects the wishes of communities we serve	<p>Sharing resources with Town and Parish Councils that will help them reduce their environmental impact.</p> <p>Provide opportunities to collaborate on Council projects e.g. eCargo bikes, Rewilding plans.</p>	Ongoing

7. Ensure sustainable planning and development		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
7.1 Create a Planning Sustainability Checklist so decision makers can understand the sustainability of proposals	Planning Sustainability Checklist is drafted, brought to Cabinet and then following consultation the Checklist will become a local validation requirement	Jan 21/Summer 2021
7.2 Create a new Development Plan document on sustainability and carbon reduction	Creation of a new Development Plan document to provide guidance and encouragement to developers to consider carbon reduction and sustainable design within new buildings	Summer 2021

7. Ensure sustainable planning and development		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
7.3 Information on sustainable travel choices to be included in marketing of residential properties for developments where there are good sustainable transport options to encourage reduced car use and ownership.	Provision of leaflet detailing walking and cycling routes, as well as public transport options in the locality of the development	2021
7.4 Consideration given to car free developments and other approaches to reducing car parking provision and encouraging car free lifestyles	Adoption of new ECC parking standards, which include car free developments	2021
7.5 Explore opportunities for biodiversity net gain	Requirement for biodiversity net gain included in local plan	2021

8. Change the way we work to achieve our climate commitment		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
8.1 Development of the Climate Challenge and Sustainability Strategy to provide oversight for the Council's work on the climate emergency	<p>Review previous Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Climate Emergency Action Plan and Strategic Plan 2020-2023.</p> <p>Align goals of all documents into strategy that will be the overarching document guiding the design of the Climate Emergency Action Plan</p>	Jan 21/July 21

8. Change the way we work to achieve our climate commitment		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
8.2 Ensuring internal strategies and policies are consistent with the climate change emergency	Review of internal core strategies with at least 3 updated to show consideration of the climate emergency, including the Asset (Housing) Management Strategy	Feb 21/2022
8.3 Write and agree an internal data management plan which sets out roles and responsibilities for data capture and verification as well as a timetable for reporting	Set up monitoring and reporting template for Climate Emergency Action Plan which will align with reporting to Environment and Sustainability Panel	Jan 21/Mar 21
8.4 Develop a learning and development programme for staff on climate change and environmental issues to help increase awareness and promote behaviour change	Utilise training for planning officers provided by ECC to help planners understand how they can mitigate environmental impacts within their role Use resources produced by the Carbon Literacy Project to deliver sessions to staff to increase awareness of climate change, and the action we can take within our roles to reduce our environmental impact.	June 2021/Dec 2021 May 2021/Ongoing
8.5 Embed consideration of the environment and climate change within internal communications to promote awareness and behaviour change of environmental issues and the climate challenge	Develop an internal comms strategy to plan out how to inform staff of environmental work and projects. Run a pilot behaviour change challenge to encourage staff to adopt more environmentally friendly behaviours	Ongoing Mar 21/Apr 21

8. Change the way we work to achieve our climate commitment		
Action	How will action be achieved?	Date Started/ Finish
8.6 Strengthen assessment of environmental impacts in all levels of Council decision making	<p>Develop a suitable resource to help staff consider the environmental impacts throughout their project, drawing on learning from the environmental checklist originally developed</p> <p>Creation of KPIs linked to the Climate to monitor how Council operations and projects are becoming more environmentally friendly</p>	Mar 21/Sept 21
8.7 Improve our procurement processes so that environmental considerations are made within sourcing goods, service and works	<p>Develop guidance to help staff include more environmental considerations within procurement specifications.</p> <p>Review use of Social Value Portal and its ability to help the Council work with greener contractors and recognise the positive environmental benefits delivered through specific contracts</p>	<p>Summer 21</p> <p>Autumn 21</p>
8.8 Review the Council's Travel Plan to ensure this continues to promote sustainable travel to staff	Review the Council's Travel Plan in light of changes to staff working location patterns to ensure this Plan facilitates sustainable travel to staff going forward	Jan 21/Dec 21
8.9 Reduce the environmental impacts of events organised by Colchester Events Company	<p>Identify some sustainability improvements that could be made to events, and pilot at an upcoming event</p> <p>Review the Events Policy and associated documents to see how events could be made more sustainable in the long term.</p>	<p>Feb 21/Aug 21</p> <p>2021/2022</p>