

# Appendix A

## Draft Climate Change Strategy

## 1. Introduction

In February 2020, Tandridge District Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need to take urgent action in response to climate change. At that time, it was proposed the Council would develop a climate change action plan, with targets to cut environmental impact and steps to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The pandemic and other issues meant the Council has not progressed the work in this area as much as it would have liked. This strategy is now aligned with the government's target to become a carbon neutral council by 2050.

Net zero carbon emissions can only be achieved by everyone working together including governments, councils, business, and local communities. We reach net zero when the amount of carbon dioxide we add is no more than the amount taken away.

The Council has a duty to reduce carbon emissions from its operations and to play its part in supporting communities and businesses to do the same. We have reduced our carbon emissions by making changes in day-to-day operations, but there is more to do.

Predicted consequences of climate change include increased extreme weather events, such as flooding causing damage to properties and disruptions to local business and agriculture. Extremes of hot and cold weather increase health risks for vulnerable people causing pressure on emergency and health services

The Council supports Surrey County Council's Climate Change Strategy and the shared ambition of all Surrey councils that our residents live in clean, safe, green communities where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities. We recognise the advantage to be gained from working collaboratively with other councils.

## 2. Corporate objectives

One of the priorities of the Corporate Plan is **Protecting and enhancing the environment**.

The following objectives will help deliver this:

- Ensure new development is properly planned and sustainable and benefits the district's communities.
- Reduce our environmental impact and support residents and businesses to reduce their own impact.

### 3. Climate change objectives

To support the delivery of the priority and objectives, our climate change objectives are to:

- Ensure plan making and planning decisions protect the environment while delivering quality place-making and appropriate land use with supporting infrastructure.
- Seek Biodiversity Net Gain from new development and use the Council's own developments and assets.
- Focus on improving biodiversity encouraging and enabling green tourism and green infrastructure [within the statutory guidance](#).
- Reduce waste and emissions across our own estate, assets and activities and use natural resources more efficiently.
- Provide an efficient recycling and waste service, encouraging residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Work with Surrey County Council and other transport providers to promote sustainable transport choices, increase accessibility for all and reduce congestion.
- Work with Surrey County Council and other partners to help residents and businesses make responsible environmental decisions and to take action to reduce their own carbon footprint and use of resources, as well as increase their climate change resilience.

### 4. Categorising carbon emissions

To be able to reduce our impact on the environment we need to be able to measure it. Scope emissions are a way of categorising greenhouse gas emissions created by organisations in their operations and wider value chain.

There are three types of emissions. Scopes 1, 2 and 3 were developed as part of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, a joint effort by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, to create worldwide standards for measuring greenhouse gas emissions. This project published its first set of corporate standards in 2001, introducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

- **Scope 1 direct emissions**  
This covers the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions the Council creates directly into the atmosphere, for example from our housing stock, other buildings, vehicles etc.
- **Scope 2 indirect emissions**  
These are emissions the Council makes indirectly, when the electricity or energy we buy for heating and cooling buildings, is produced on our behalf.
- **Scope 3 other indirect emissions**  
In this category are emissions which we are indirectly responsible for. For example, from buying products from suppliers, commuting, emissions from contractors.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions are the ones most within the Council's control. We have the data to calculate the emissions we generate, or how much gas and electricity we use. We can choose to use renewable energy or to have electric vehicles.

Scope 3 is least within our control and harder to influence. We can add conditions to our procurement process and work with suppliers to encourage them to reduce their emissions.

#### **4.1 Reducing scope 1 emissions**

One of our main actions is to identify, measure and reduce carbon emissions from council operations. While carbon dioxide is the primary driver, it is not the only greenhouse gas driving global warming.

The Council presents all carbon emission calculations in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO<sub>2e</sub>). All greenhouse gas emissions will be converted to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents based on their global warming potential and represented as carbon dioxide.

To reduce our scope 1 emissions further we will:

- Continue to build net zero homes for rent.
- Decarbonise our transport stock.
- Streamline services to make them efficient and waste free.
- Install LED lighting in more car parks.
- Support the installation of electric vehicle charging points on our land.
- Ban the use of single use plastics in council buildings.
- Develop and adopt a Biodiversity Strategy and action plan for council owned land and follow statutory guidance to include biodiversity net gain\*.
- Offer a cycle to work scheme to staff.
- Support a hybrid working environment which allows staff to work from home.

The largest area of scope 1 emissions comes from our housing stock. We have around 2,600 properties of which only a few new build properties meet net zero standards. Of all the actions that fall within Scope 1, making our properties carbon neutral will be the most challenging to achieve. We have calculated that decarbonising our housing stock could cost around £200 million.

A house costs around £70,000 to retrofit and a flat £45,000. To meet the 2050 target, we would need to retrofit 125 properties a year.

We will continue to bid for funding to retrofit our council housing stock. The funding process can be time consuming and complex. Even when we have been awarded funding some of the constraints imposed by the government may mean we cannot spend the money in the time allowed. This creates a risk to this strategy and the Council's commitment to achieve carbon neutral status.

\*In terms of meeting the statutory target for biodiversity net gain there is a risk the cost of doing so will impact our ability to build council properties.

## 4.2 Reducing scope 2 emissions

We have a green tariff with our current energy supplier, which is more expensive than other energy.

To help reduce scope 2 emissions we will:

- Monitor electricity usage in council owned building and structures, such as toilets and pavilions.
- Use LED and energy efficient lighting where possible

## 4.3 Reducing scope 3 emissions

Due to the rural nature of the district, combined with the lack of highly skilled jobs and poor public transport, many residents commute to a place of work outside the district. As a result, car ownership and usage are high across the district.

To help reduce scope 3 emissions we will:

- Support the installation of electric vehicle charging points on third-party public-sector, sites such as parish councils through our Connected Kerb contract.
- Ensure all new homes with parking have an electric vehicle charging point installed.
- Promote grants for electric vehicles and charging points for private use.
- Encourage more sustainable travel and work with Surrey County Council to provide more opportunity for journeys to be made on foot, or by bike.
- Promote and encourage the use of solar panels.
- Promote energy efficiency grants for householders and businesses.
- Encourage residents to switch to services online, reducing paper and postage.
- Lead and support behavioural change campaigns and activity to encourage residents and businesses to take steps to mitigate against climate change.
- Encourage residents and businesses to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle to reduce the amount of waste created and disposed of.
- Improve and encourage biodiversity across the district.
- Use our planning processes to ensure design, infrastructure, climate change mitigation and biodiversity are given high priority and weight in planning decision making.
- Work with Surrey County Council and other transport providers to promote sustainable and accessible transport choices.

## 5. Reporting

Our Climate Change Action Plan sets out how we intend to achieve our objectives. This will be regularly reviewed and updated. A six month update and an annual report will be published and presented to Strategy and Resources to give an overview of progress on activity and targets.

## 6. Budget

There is no specific budget for climate change mitigation work. Any current activities are being absorbed by service areas as part of service planning. Any additional costs will need to be agreed and funded within existing budgets, a case made for additional budget or external funding sought.

## 6. Statutory framework

There is a commitment on the government to act on climate change issues.

- The Climate Change Act 2008 established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050 from 1990 levels.
- The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 requires the government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100 per cent relative to 1990 levels by 2050.
- The Localism Act 2011 places a general duty on councils to implement action on climate change.
- Regulations around climate change are part of planning law with specific reference to the Local Plan.
- The Council is mandated to report all current greenhouse gas emissions to the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy.

There are no other regulatory requirements for councils specific to climate change, which means the actions identified in the strategy are 'discretionary.' The Council chooses to deliver them to improve people's quality of life.