

March 2023

Horsham District's Draft Climate Action Strategy

Towards Carbon Neutrality
and Climate Resilience



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District
Council

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Foreword

Shared challenge, shared action

In 2019, Horsham District Council formally recognised the global environmental crisis and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This is an ambitious target, and although significant progress has already been achieved, we know that there is a lot still to do. We also know that Horsham District Council's emissions represent only a tiny proportion of those emitted by the District as a whole.

The Council has committed to achieving carbon neutrality for the whole District by 2050, as well as improving climate resilience and enhancing nature across the whole area. Achieving these objectives will be challenging. It will also create benefits and opportunities.

Horsham District Council has already instigated many climate positive initiatives including Wilder Horsham District, a unique partnership between the Council and the Sussex Wildlife Trust, which aims to improve the biodiversity of the District. It has also established a Community Climate Fund for groups to implement climate projects and is working with partners to roll out a new network of electric vehicle charge points across West Sussex. The District also has the highest recycling rates in the County. Many partners and

community groups are also taking action, such as establishing green hubs and climate cafes where residents can share information, and repair cafes, to reduce items going to landfill. Many businesses are also starting to take action to reduce their carbon footprints.

Building a cohesive Climate Action Strategy is an important next step in driving climate action across the Horsham District. The purpose of this draft Strategy is to bring together partner organisations, local businesses, communities, and groups under the united goal of climate action. Horsham District Council cannot deliver carbon neutrality, climate resilience and enhance nature on its own.

The actions in the draft Strategy will drive the Horsham District towards carbon neutrality and climate resilience. However, it is only through the collective action of Horsham District's residents, businesses, community groups, partners, and the Council that this Strategy can be successfully implemented. This Strategy should be used as a focal point for climate action across Horsham, to ensure collective action towards our collective goals.

Paul Anderson,
Director of Communities, Horsham District Council



Glossary of key terms

Biodiversity net gain:

Contribution of an intervention to biodiversity increase. This includes protecting existing ecosystems, animals and plants as well as investing in green and blue infrastructure.

Carbon hotspots:

Sources of high levels of carbon emissions, for organisations to focus their carbon reduction efforts on.

Carbon insetting:

The financing of carbon reduction or sequestration projects that reduce carbon emissions outside of an organisation's direct operations but within its own supply chain.

Carbon neutral:

Achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

Carbon offsetting:

The financing of carbon reduction or sequestration projects elsewhere, outside of an organisation's direct operations, in order to 'balance' or compensate for emissions.

Carbon sink:

Anything natural that absorbs and stores carbon from the atmosphere for long periods of time – for example, forests, grasslands, soil and the ocean. A biological or 'indirect' form of sequestration.

Circular economy:

An alternative to our current 'linear' materials and waste system (take-waste-dispose). In a circular economy waste is substantially reduced and materials are circulated throughout the economy at their highest value and utility.

Climate resilience:

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events or disturbances related to climate change (e.g. floods, extreme weather). Includes adaptation to climate change, resilience to adverse climate events, and community climate preparedness.

Co-Benefits:

The additional benefits gained by implementing an intervention. The benefits can be social, economic and/or environmental).

Distribution centre:

A centralised facility which is stocked with products for redistribution to retailers or directly to customer, with the aim to reduce number of delivery vehicles in urban areas.

Embodied carbon:

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole lifecycle of a building or infrastructure.

Enablers:

Policies and mechanisms that will build the capacity across Horsham District Council, local communities and businesses, to accelerate the District's sustainable transition to carbon neutrality

Fuel Poverty:

Contribution of an intervention to reducing a household's energy bills through improved energy efficiency, enhanced insulation, or use of renewable, low carbon energy.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS):

A strategy that identifies long-term cycling and walking improvements for an area and makes the case for future investment through funding bids and by informing discussions with developers.

Micromobility:

A range of small, lightweight vehicles operating at speeds typically below 25km/h and driven by users personally including bicycles, e-bikes, electric scooters, electric skateboards, shared bicycle fleets, and electric pedal assisted bicycles.

Mobility hub:

A new location where shared transport, public transport and active travel provisions are provided, designed to improve the public realm for all.

Net zero carbon:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and then ensuring that any ongoing emissions are balanced by removals.

Passive design:

Design that uses layout, fabric and form to reduce or remove mechanical cooling, heating, ventilation and lighting demand.

Scope 3:

Carbon emissions that are not produced by an entity itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that it's indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain. An example of this is when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers.

Sequestration:

The capturing, removal and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It can be 'indirect' (e.g. natural sequestration through carbon sinks) or 'direct/artificial' whereby carbon is purposefully captured and stored, often technologically or geologically.

Sharing economy:

A concept that highlights the ability of individuals to rent or borrow goods rather than buy and own them.

Soft landings:

A process for a gradual handover of a building, where a period of professional aftercare by the project team is a client requirement, planned for and carried out.

Systems:

Horsham District's five carbon-hotspot scopes of emissions that provide opportunities for decarbonisation.

Introduction

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges and risks facing society. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has announced a “code red for humanity”, with irrefutable evidence that fossil fuel burning and deforestation is causing unprecedented, unnatural levels of global heating. The impacts of climate change are already being felt on a global scale with extreme weather events – flooding, droughts, hurricanes, heatwaves, and snowstorms – devastating cities, regions, and countries. In Horsham District, local water stress, flooding events, and extreme heatwaves have hindered business as usual, and forced local communities and businesses to consider how climate change will impact their lives and livelihoods in the coming decades.

In response to the climate crisis, the [UK Government](#) has committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. The Government is pledging to end its contribution to climate change whilst looking to lead the world to a cleaner, greener form of growth.

Aligning with national ambitions, Horsham District Council (HDC) has [committed to carbon neutrality](#) of its direct emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality of its indirect emissions (including from leased buildings and supply chain) by 2050.

HDC has produced a Council Carbon Reduction Action Plan (April 2022 to March 2025) to address its own emissions. In implementing the Action Plan, HDC is leading the District’s decarbonisation efforts

and hoping to inspire others to reduce their own carbon emissions. However, the Council’s emissions only represent a small fraction of the District’s carbon footprint. As such, HDC has commissioned a Climate Action Strategy for the entire Horsham District to inform the District’s transition to a low carbon and climate resilient future.

The focus of Horsham District’s Climate Action Strategy is to map an ambitious pathway for HDC, its key strategic partners, local communities, residents and businesses to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and start to adapt to climate change. This Strategy provides an overarching 10-year plan (with regular review periods) for the area to decarbonise, whilst delivering multiple co-benefits to local businesses and communities. It builds on existing work, lessons learnt and successes in the District to address the climate crisis, reduce carbon emissions and improve climate resilience.

This is the Summary version of the strategy, for use by key stakeholders. A more detailed and comprehensive action plan has been developed for Horsham District Council. The opportunities in this Strategy have also been uploaded onto the OnePlanet Tool, a dynamic online mapping tool for the Council and public to use to review progress against the Strategy.

Fig. 1: Horsham Town Centre.



Fig. 2: Rural countryside in Horsham District.



Horsham’s key climate impact areas

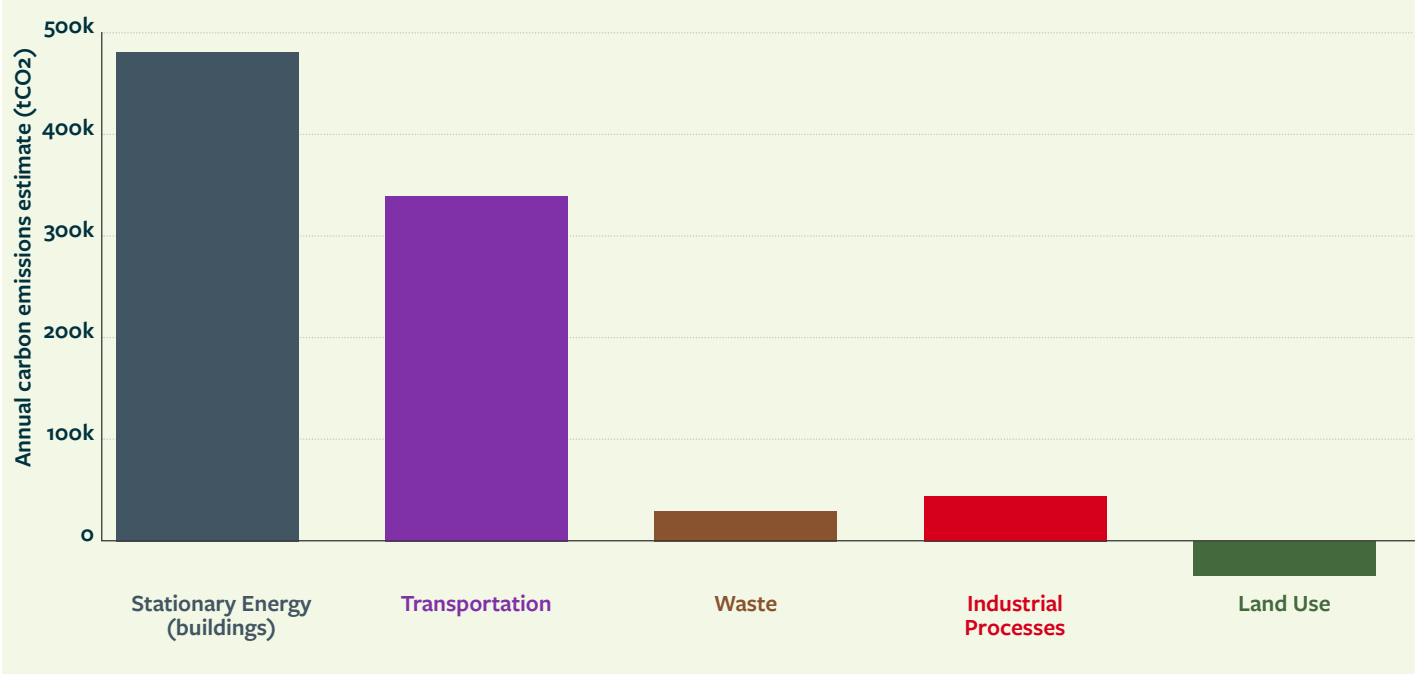
This Strategy was informed by a comprehensive baseline review of Horsham District’s current carbon emissions. The baseline review revealed several carbon hotspots that could be attributed across different ‘Systems’ (by this we mean sources of emissions that provide opportunities for decarbonisation, such as buildings, transport and waste). The distribution of emissions across each System, made clear the key areas in which decarbonisation efforts are needed (see Fig.3). Each System was analysed to understand the potential opportunities to make significant and rapid carbon reductions. This analysis has informed the key strategies and targeted approaches in this Climate Action Strategy.

Some key findings for Horsham District includes:

- Building-related emissions account for over half of all emissions in Horsham District, mainly linked to energy consumption.
- Electricity grid mix is currently heavily reliant on UK gas and European imports, and the quantity of electricity sourced from renewable energy is less than the national average.
- Transport accounts for over a third of emissions in Horsham District, linked almost entirely to road transport.

- Industrial processes and Waste are responsible for lower quantities of carbon emissions compared to Buildings/Transport. However, analysis indicates that further efficiencies are possible in terms of solid waste disposal and industrial energy consumption.
- Land use acts as a net carbon sink in the District. This is calculated from [ONS’s](#) territorial carbon emissions data, which indicate forest land and grassland acting as positive actor in carbon sequestration. However, it is important to note that livestock is a carbon emitter and reduces the size of the net positive impact of land use in Horsham District.
- Horsham District’s per capita emissions were 4.5 tCO₂e/yr in 2020, around the same as the [national average](#). Per capita emissions have reduced since 2005, but this has been mostly driven by the decarbonisation of the national grid (moving away from fossil fuels and towards renewables).
- The Council’s carbon emissions account for approximately 1% of Horsham District’s total emissions.
- Although water was not analysed directly at this stage, actions to address water consumption, water quality and flooding are incorporated throughout the Strategy’s recommendations.

Fig. 3: Horsham District’s emissions estimation per system (SCATTER Inventory, 2019).



Decarbonisation trajectory

Horsham District has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, in-line with the UK's commitment. In order to achieve this commitment, there is no question that the District will have to make a significant shift from business as usual in terms of carbon emissions, taking action across all parts of the local economy urgently.

The graph below (Fig.4) shows that significant decarbonisation is required to be within a chance of meeting carbon neutrality targets by 2050. The Tyndall Centre, aligning with the Paris Agreement, recommends front-loading decarbonisation efforts; the reasons for this are twofold. Firstly, carbon reduction will only become more difficult in the future as the easy actions are completed and

more complex issues remain. Secondly, the longer it takes to start reducing carbon emissions, the more impacts will be experienced from a changing climate. Urgent action is required to address the high emitting sectors now, to give time for more complex decarbonisation issues to be implemented and to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

This Strategy maps interventions on a timeline; to ensure that opportunities to make large carbon saving are made early, to ensure long-term programmes of work are set in motion and to follow a trajectory similar to Tyndall Centre's recommendations for carbon neutrality by 2050.

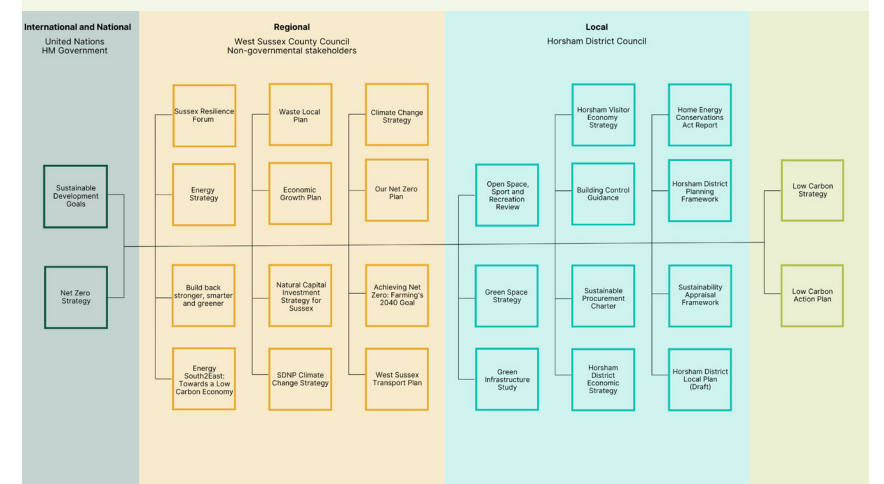
Policy context

In the development of this Strategy, a detailed analysis of the local policy landscape has been carried out to:

- Assess the existing relevant policies and strategies;
- Start to understand if and how they need to be pushed further; and
- Highlight any gaps where additional policies, partnerships and/or community-led interventions would make a significant impact.

Fig. 5 maps out these key policies which in turn informed this Strategy.

Fig. 5: Summary map of policies that have informed this Strategy.



Horsham District's Decarbonisation Projections

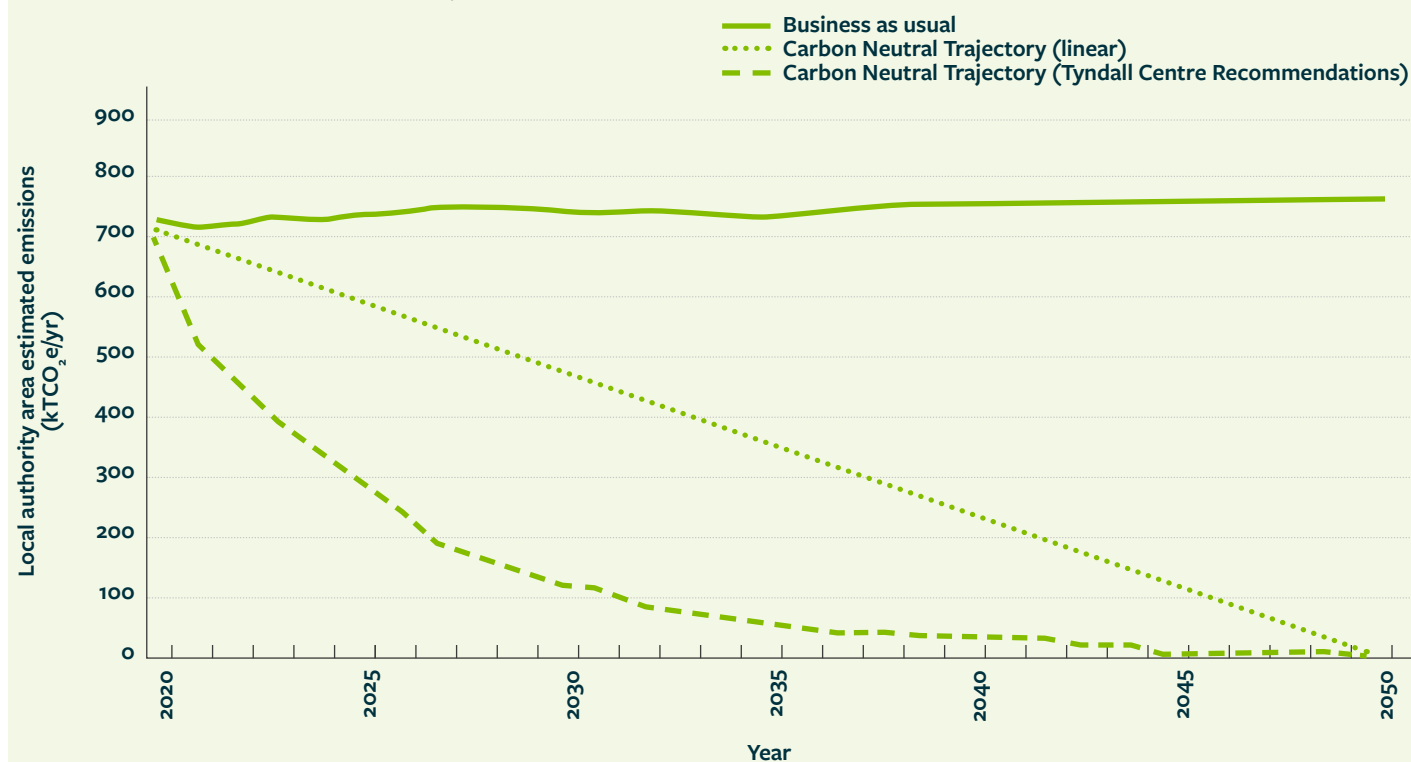


Fig. 4: Horsham District's carbon projections based on three future scenarios.

The unbroken line presents a business as usual approach, with no active decarbonisation efforts, taking into account the projected decarbonisation of the national grid and population growth (source: [Net Zero Navigator Tool](#), with extrapolated data where population data is unavailable to the tool, this should provide an indicative projection of emissions by 2050).

The dotted line presents a linear decarbonisation trajectory to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (source: [Net Zero Navigator Tool](#)). This indicates the annual decarbonisation rate required to meet climate commitments. However, following this trajectory today is unlikely to deliver a successful decarbonisation strategy by 2050.

The dashed line presents the decarbonisation trajectory recommended to stay in-line with Paris Agreement targets (and Tyndall Centre recommendations) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (source: [University of Manchester](#)). It indicates that urgent decarbonisation is required in order to achieve long term targets.

One key policy document is Horsham District's Local Plan. The current Local Plan for Horsham District is the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF). The document sets out the spatial vision, objectives and Strategy for the District over the coming years. The overarching vision for Horsham District is:

“A dynamic district where people care and where individuals from all backgrounds can get involved in their communities and share the benefits of a district that enjoys a high quality of life.”

The HDPF is currently under review. A revised version was prepared for Council Cabinet in 2021, but was not taken forwards. However, this revision has enabled progress and a similar direction of travel with respect to low carbon and water neutrality policies in the emerging draft local plan to be developed.

Fig.6: Linking the Climate Action Strategy with the Local Plan, on the OnePlanet Tool.

The OnePlanet Tool presents the links between spatial objectives from the HDPF (yellow circles), actions from the Climate Action Strategy (green circles) and strategic objectives from the HDPF (yellow hexagons).

For example, it demonstrates how the Policies of the Local Plan link to the Climate Action Strategy, including:

- Policy 31: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
- Policy 35: Climate Change
- Policy 36: Appropriate Energy Use
- Policy 40: Sustainable Transport



Structure of the Strategy

A framework has been developed to support a holistic approach to climate action. It uses two groups of interventions, three delivery routes and four timescales to convey this approach. They are as follows:

- Enablers**

The Strategy works to deliver sustained climate action, by implementing policies, projects and structures that will build capacity, relationships and momentum; enabling climate action for decades to come – labelled in this Strategy as ‘Enablers’. The four categories of enablers are: Governance, Policy and Planning, Finance, and Education and Behaviour Change.
- Systems**

The Strategy works to deliver urgent and direct impact, by prioritising specific actions that will make large carbon savings and support climate resilience; accelerating targeted climate action now and in the future – labelled in this Strategy as ‘Systems’. The five categories of systems are: Buildings, Energy, Transport, Waste, and Land Use.

- Delivery Routes**

The Strategy recognises the need for action from multiple stakeholders in order to deliver against climate targets. It presents three ‘Delivery Routes’ required, as follows:

**Leadership:** Interventions that are delivered through the leadership route can be implemented by HDC. These interventions rely on the Council’s levers of direct control and influence.

**Partnership:** Horsham District’s Climate Action Strategy cannot be delivered by HDC alone. Partnerships with West Sussex Council Council (WSCC), neighbouring local authorities and other strategic partners are critical to deliver larger-scale projects and numerous system-led interventions proposed in this Strategy.

**Community:** HDC will also need the support of local communities, local businesses, schools, residents and third sector organisations to deliver climate action. Interventions that are implemented through the community delivery route are those that require engagement, participation and/or leadership from local communities.

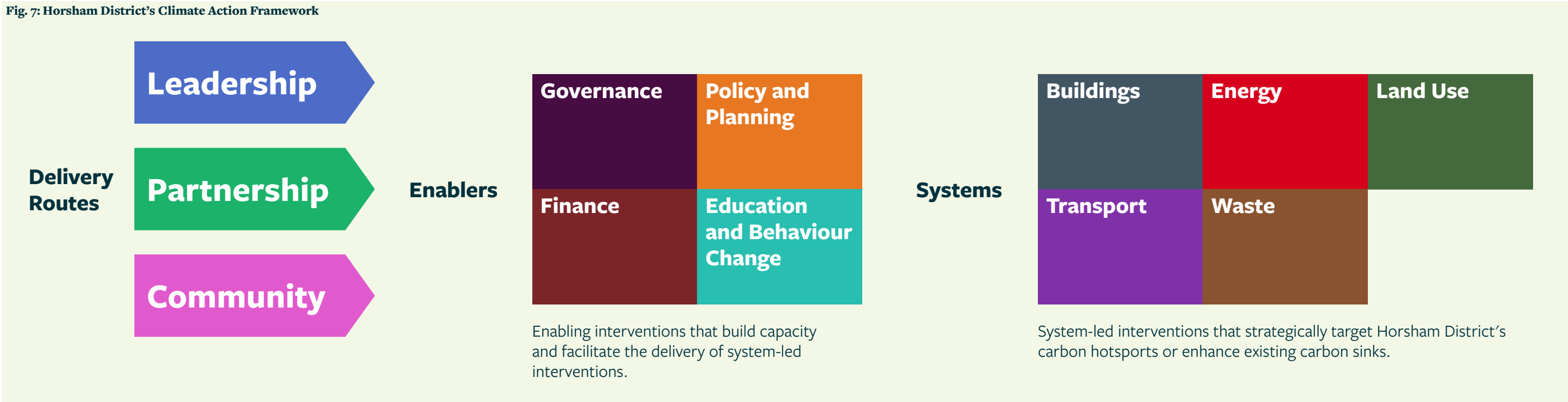
- Timescales**

This Strategy maps actions against a timescale, to highlight the urgent actions required, the short term priorities, and the interventions that should be rolled out over time. The timescales are an indicator of the start of an intervention and are not relevant to the project duration.

 - Immediate: Next steps to be delivered in 2023.
 - Short-term: Actions for 2024–26.
 - Medium-term: Actions for 2027–29.
 - Long-term: Actions for 2030 onwards.

The remainder of the report details the Overarching Goals for each Enabler and System. It also maps specific Actions required to achieve these Overarching Goals, against a Timescale and tags each Action with the relevant Delivery Route.

Fig. 7: Horsham District’s Climate Action Framework



Enablers

Enabling interventions and mechanisms will help build the capacity, relationships and momentum of the Council, local communities and businesses, to support the District’s sustainable transition to carbon neutrality and climate resilience.

This page presents the enabling mechanisms and the associated Overarching Goals that District should aim to achieve. The following page outlines the suggested Actions required against a timeline of delivery.

Governance

Collaboration, partnerships and effective organisational structures are required to deliver sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient projects. Data sharing and innovation-led mechanisms can strengthen collaborative governance processes between the Council, partners and the broader community and therefore support a more collaborative approach to climate action.

Overarching Goals:

- Collaborative Internal Governance: To implement governance structures in the Council and processes that improve collaborative working, reduce silos and capitalises on innovation opportunities to drive a sustainable transition.
- Collaborative Partnerships: To implement governance structures and mechanisms that strengthen collaboration and partnership working with key partners, and in doing so, more efficiently deliver climate action.

Policy and Planning

Policies and plans help to set a shared vision and clear communal targets for HDC, its partners, local communities and businesses. They provide clear guidance and incentives to transition to low carbon processes, as well as galvanise wider support for sustainable interventions. Planning also plays a critical role in helping to create sustainable communities.

Overarching Goals:

- Leverage Planning Powers: To use planning powers to set clear low carbon and sustainability targets in order to enable the creation of a sustainable, carbon neutral District.
- Enabling Policy Environment: To develop sustainable and low carbon policies, plans and strategies that create communal visions, inform decision-making processes and guide investment priorities.

Finance

New financial mechanisms can facilitate the delivery of sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient projects. This also includes new business models and encouraging businesses to transition to a green and circular economy, in which waste is substantially reduced and materials are circulated throughout the economy at their highest value and utility. In turn, this will help to increase Horsham District’s local economy to support climate action while also building economic resilience.

Overarching Goals:

- Enabling Financing Mechanisms: To implement financial tools and mechanisms that enable a transition to a sustainable, carbon neutral and resilient economy.
- Carbon Offsetting: To implement credible carbon offsetting mechanisms to reduce scope 3 emissions (emissions outside direct control), to invest in nature-based solutions and to achieve carbon neutrality.

Education and Behaviour Change

Sustainability, carbon neutrality and climate resilience are complex topics. By investing in upskilling and knowledge-sharing, the Council, local residents and local businesses can accelerate a transition to carbon neutrality and build local climate resilience, while supporting the delivery of co-benefits. Education also supports behaviour change, which is required to drive a District-wide sustainable shift.

Overarching Goals:

- Upskilling Local Businesses: To upskill and build the capacity of local businesses and suppliers, helping them reduce their carbon footprint, develop low carbon products and service offers and build a low carbon, resilient local economy.
- Upskilling Local Communities: To educate and support local communities and residents in adopting sustainable behaviours to achieve a society-wide transition to carbon neutrality.

Enablers – Climate Action Timeline

Key:



Systems

Systems interventions target specific high carbon-emitting topics and climate resilience opportunities in order to drive the strategic delivery of climate action. These projects and initiatives will have a direct impact on the District’s carbon emissions and resilience to climate

change. They will target the challenges at their source, deliver solutions strategically and ensure multiple positive outcomes for the environment, economy and society are maximised.

This page presents the Systems and the Overarching Goals we are aiming to achieve through climate action. The following page outlines the suggested Actions required against a timeline of delivery.

Buildings

With over half of Horsham District’s carbon emissions coming from the operation of buildings, this area presents a significant opportunity to reduce carbon emissions, reduce water consumption for the Horsham District and improve health and wellbeing in interior spaces.

Overarching Goals:

- Residential Retrofit: To improve energy efficiency of Horsham’s homes, reduce fuel poverty and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Commercial and Community Retrofit: To improve energy efficiency of Horsham District’s non-residential buildings, creating cost-saving opportunities for businesses and future-proofing infrastructure.

Transport

Significant carbon savings can be made by adapting Horsham District’s current transport systems. Over a third of Horsham District’s emissions are from transport, of which the vast majority are from car-transport. Reducing the number of cars on the road would support the decarbonisation of the District, while providing multiple co-benefits including reduced air pollution and health and wellbeing.

Overarching Goals:

- Active Travel: To reduce the reliance on private cars, improve health and wellbeing and alleviate noise and air pollution – especially in urban areas.
- Micromobility Solutions: To encourage a modal shift in Horsham District prioritising low carbon, active and public forms of transport.
- Public Transport: To increase the attractiveness and demand for public transport in Horsham District in urban and rural areas.
- Low Carbon Transport: To support the electrification of all modes of transport and explore other low carbon fuel solutions.

Energy

Significant carbon savings can be made through the decarbonisation of Horsham District’s energy mix. Currently, the carbon intensity of Horsham District’s grid is higher than the national average; this is because it relies on electricity from imports and gas, while the proportion of the grid electricity met through renewables lags behind the national average. Supporting new renewable energy schemes at all scales will take pressure of the national grid and support decarbonisation.

Overarching Goal:

- Low Carbon Energy Generation and Storage: To decarbonise Horsham District’s energy consumption by maximising local renewable energy generation and enabling communities and businesses to take ownership over the energy they use.

Waste

Tackling waste provides potential for both direct and indirect carbon emission savings. Horsham District is already contributing to progress in this space, which should continue to be built upon in future projects. Moving forwards, solid-waste disposal should be the focus of reduction efforts as it is the source of the majority of the District’s waste related emissions.

Overarching Goals:

- Circular Economy: To transition to a circular economy where waste generation is minimised and re-use is highly encouraged.
- Eliminating Food Waste: To reduce emissions associated with food waste, increase food security and unlock new business opportunities through trading food waste.

Land Use

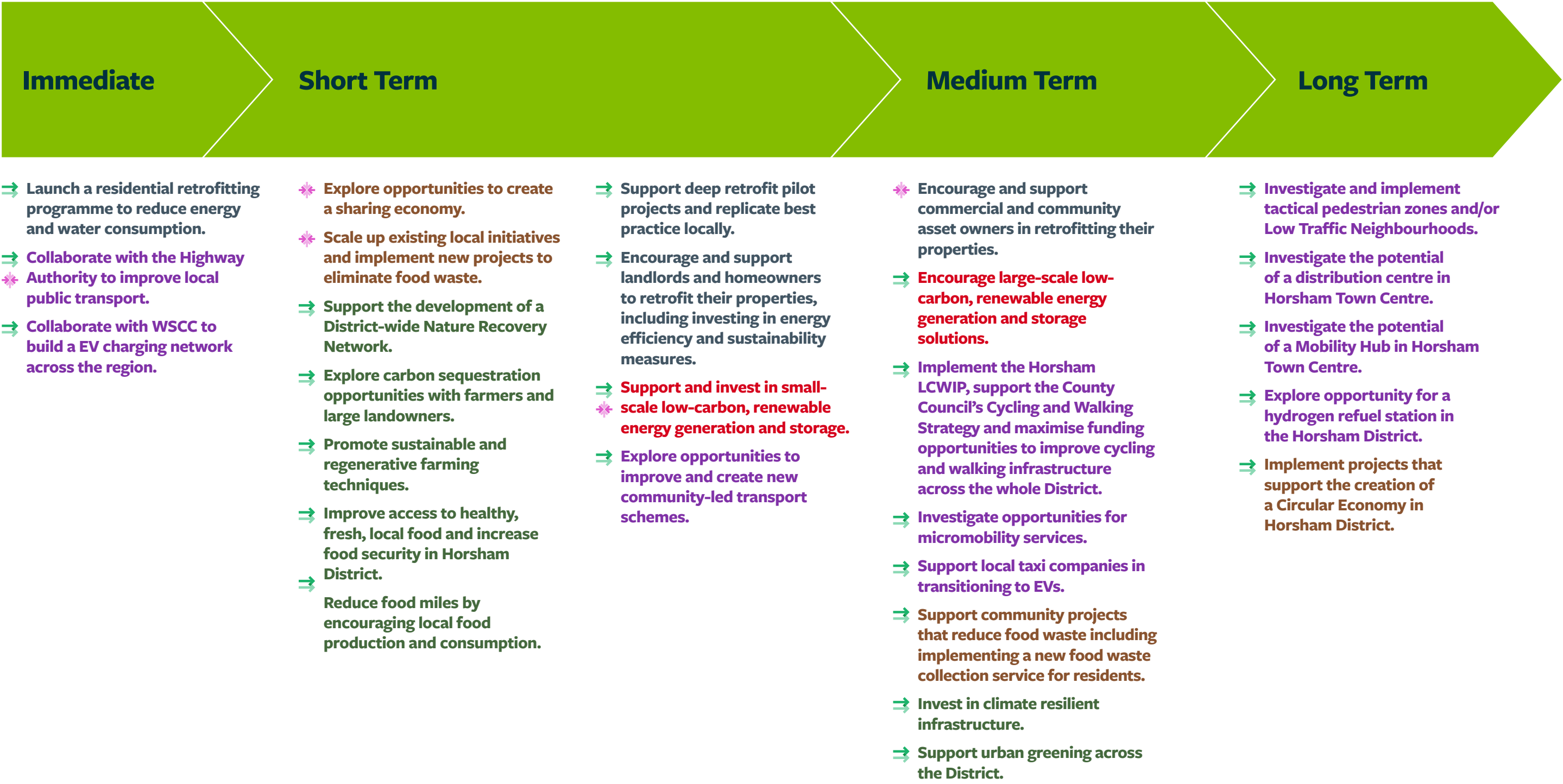
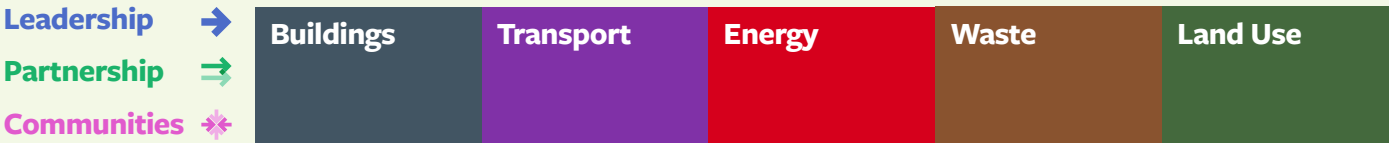
Horsham District’s land use is a net carbon sink. This is due to a large amount of high-quality forest and grassland in the local area, constantly sequestering carbon; this is partially balanced out by carbon emitted through farming processes related to livestock. The District’s rural land is a significant opportunity to deliver carbon savings but also to support climate resilience (including reduce risk of flooding) and nature recovery as the impacts of climate change worsen.

Overarching Goals:

- Climate Resilience: To support and improve green and blue infrastructure across Horsham District and increase climate resilience and biodiversity in urban and rural areas.
- Sustainable Farming and Land Use: To capitalise on Horsham District’s natural environment to maximise natural carbon sequestration opportunities and support farmers in decarbonising and future-proofing their operations.
- Sustainable Food Systems: To create sustainable, low carbon and resilient local food systems that increase food security and residents’ health and wellbeing.

Systems – Climate Action Timeline

Key:



Case studies

Case studies are helpful tools when implementing climate action strategies. They provide precedents and inspiration of what can be done through progressive leadership, proactive partnership and ambitious communities, as well as reflections on lessons learnt.

This page presents a selection of climate action projects already underway in Horsham District as well as helpful examples and resources across the UK.



Open Eco Homes

A scheme run by Cambridge Carbon Footprint, with the aim to support people to create beautiful, high-functioning and low-energy homes. They find householders who have renovated or built new eco homes and help them to pass on their knowledge to visitors by organising tours in their homes over two days in September. All tours and workshops are free, but donations are welcomed and any profit is used to run the events. As well as the house tours, they run several open tours to help people build their skills and knowledge. A set of case studies are available on their [website](#) as open access to support people looking to making thermal improvements to their homes.



The UKGBC Retrofit Playbook

The playbook forms part of the UKGBC Accelerator Cities Programme, designed to support and enable local and combined authorities to take action on home retrofit. The playbook presents retrofit best practice and guidance towards; setting targets, overarching Strategy, engagement, finance, supply chain, and case studies.



Sustainable Business Networks, Hampshire

The Sustainable Business Networks (SBNs) are the forward facing business support system run by a number of partners in Hampshire. The partnership is currently running 3 local networks across Hampshire and runs quarterly network meetings to bring together engaged and like-minded businesses in an informal setting to consider a different sustainability issue each time. Past meeting themes have included Environmental Management Systems (EMS), Transport, Energy, Sustainable Procurement, Electric Vehicles and many more.

The aim is to increase the number of businesses operating sound sustainable business principles, and to position the Hampshire area as a low carbon leader.



Project SCENE (Sustainable Community Energy Networks)

Project SCENE looks to accelerate the adoption of Community Energy Systems within a housing development in the Nottingham Trent Basin. The project features a community energy battery, solar photo-voltaic (PV) panels and local thermal energy production. The project will also advance development in home-smart technology, add communal electric vehicle facilities, a car sharing scheme and a ground source heating.



The Community Climate Fund

The Community Climate Fund is a grant available from Horsham District Council to local community groups working on projects that support a transition to carbon neutrality across Horsham District.

In doing so, the Council aims to support local groups and Parish Councils to take action in reducing carbon emissions within local communities. The Fund has set various priorities with which projects must align, including: carbon emissions, energy, water, waste, biodiversity and transport.



Connected Kerb

WSCC and local District and Borough Councils have formed a partnership with Connected Kerb to provide an electric vehicle chargepoint network across West Sussex. The partnership is working to install thousands of chargepoints across the county over the next ten years, forming the West Sussex Chargepoint Network to support residents that do not have off-street parking which is a barrier to the take up of electric vehicles.



Sussex Green Living

Sussex Green Living is a charity that provides a network and facilitates projects to support local communities to live more sustainably across Sussex. They provide information, education, tips and advice, to encourage communities to live more environmentally-friendly lifestyles.

The charity offers environmental services like the Horsham Repair Café, a TerraCycle drop off point, a refill service, and hosts other local environmental groups like Ecochurches, Transition Horsham and a pop-up event of the Horsham Community Fridge at a monthly Green Hub.



Wilder Horsham District

A unique and innovative five-year partnership between Sussex Wildlife Trust and HDC that has been established in response to the urgent pressures on biodiversity. Its main objective is to initiate the development and delivery of a Nature Recovery Network that will help wildlife thrive, throughout the District and beyond.

Summary and Next Steps

This draft Strategy provides a holistic approach to delivering climate action across Horsham District over the next 10-years. It presents the Overarching Goals and Actions, that either enable climate action or deliver specific systems-based projects, in order to drive the District towards carbon neutrality and climate resilience.

Each Action is assigned a Delivery Route; this indicates the relevant stakeholder group, but more than that, it emphasises the responsibility of every business, community and individual in Horsham District to act on climate change. The only way for this Strategy to be successfully delivered is through committed collaboration and dedication to Horsham District's climate action mission.

Together, all communities and businesses across the Horsham District have the chance to support the national decarbonisation targets and build a resilient future for generations to come. The aim is for this Strategy is to provide a focal-point for the local area, to outline a timeline of important actions and to urge government, organisations and communities to accelerate action before it is too late.

Next steps

The Council is using a platform called OnePlanet to help track progress of the Climate Action Strategy. In order to do this the Overarching Goals and Actions have been mapped, as well as those of other Plans and Strategies that contribute to the delivery of the Climate Change Action Strategy. This will support the Strategy to work as a dynamic and evolving plan, which can support climate action for years to come.

Work on some of the actions on the Draft Strategy will start immediately, particularly where the Council has more direct control or where it has already started developing partnerships to encourage actions by other organisations, such as Parish and Neighbourhood Councils. Having developed the basis of the strategy in consultation with stakeholders such as West Sussex County Council, Sussex Nature Partnership, South East Climate Alliance and Net Zero Hub, the Council now will be carrying out a consultation and engagement process to gather the views and expertise of the wider community.



If you're interested in hearing more about Horsham District's Climate Action Strategy or have any specific questions, please contact: climatechangeaction@horsham.gov.uk.

Strategy developed by Horsham District Council working with Useful Projects and OnePlanet:



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