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Horsham District's Climate Action Strategy

Towards Net Zero
and Climate Resilience

January 2024

OnePlanet.



Horsham
District
Council



Foreword

Shared challenge, shared action

Horsham District Council is committed to taking action on climate change. This is one of its main priorities. In June 2023 it declared an ecological and climate emergency recognising that these two issues are intrinsically linked. The new Council Plan 2023-2027 reinforced this commitment by identifying 'Inspiring Greener Futures' as one of its four key themes. The Council aims to be a net zero for some of its emissions by 2030 and for the district to be net zero by 2050.

Progress is being made on moving to a net zero council but there is still a lot to do. We also know that the District Council's emissions represent only a tiny proportion of those emitted across the whole district. This is why having a Climate Action Strategy for the district is so important. It not only sets out what the Council will do but the actions that others in the community, including residents and businesses, as well as partners, will need to take. The Council cannot reach net zero for the district or adapt to the changing climate on its own. This can only be achieved by working collaboratively. In some instances the Council can take direct action while on other issues it will need to have a leadership role. Meanwhile other tasks will require action by others, often working together, supported and guided by the Council wherever possible.

The Strategy was drawn up with input from officers across the Council, as well as partner organisations with knowledge and responsibilities on key issues. Consultation and one-to-one engagement with residents and businesses has helped to refine the contents of the Strategy and confirmed that it addresses the right priorities and actions.

The Council and many other partners, community groups, Parish and Neighbourhood Councils and businesses have started climate positive initiatives. The district is fortunate to have so many residents and organisations that are committed to taking action. The Strategy provides a framework to drive further action to reduce emissions, embed climate resilience and enhance nature. It is only by collective action that these aspirations can be achieved, and that the benefits and opportunities from addressing these issues can be realised.

Councillor Colette Blackburn,
Cabinet Member for Climate Action
and Nature Recovery

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 customers, 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 net zero.

Fuel Poverty:

When a household needs to spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature, and thus may be unable to keep their home adequately warm.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):

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:

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 levels of global heating that human civilisation has not experienced before. 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 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 its direct emissions being net zero by 2030. These are the emissions from the fuel used in its fleet vehicles and the heating and lighting in its operational buildings. It is aiming to be net zero for 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 start to reach these targets. 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 1% of the District’s carbon footprint. As such, HDC has produced 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 net zero emissions by 2050 and to adapt to the changing climate. 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, which is available on request. 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.

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. 1). Each System was analysed to understand the potential opportunities to make significant and rapid carbon reductions. This analysis has informed the main areas for targeted approaches in this Climate Action Strategy.

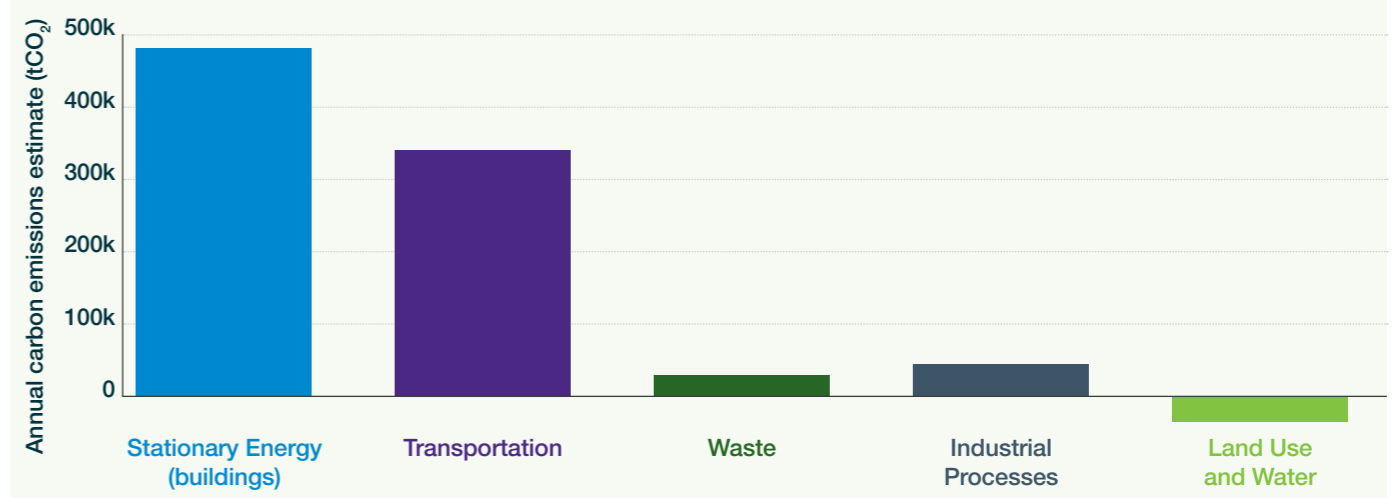
This analysis was supplemented by input from local residents, businesses, and relevant organisations. One theme that emerged from this was concern over the importance of water related issues, including reducing water consumption and flood risk, as well as improving river water quality. The Land Use section has been extended to cover water to give this issue greater prominence.

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, as forest land and grassland absorb more carbon than other uses, such as livestock, emits. This is different to the national picture where land use is usually a net carbon emitter. Opportunities should still be taken to increase the uptake of carbon which can also bring biodiversity benefits. Water has been included in the title of this section to reflect the importance of water related issues to adapting to a changing climate.
- Water is an important issue for the district. There is a link between water use and energy; particularly how it is used in the home. However, the most important aspect is adapting to extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought, particularly in an area that is already water stressed, and where demands for water are impacting on the natural and built environments.
- Horsham District’s emissions have reduced since 2005, but this is mostly due to the decarbonisation of the national grid (moving away from fossil fuels and towards renewables such as solar panels).

Fig. 1: Horsham District’s emissions estimation per system (SCATTER Inventory, 2019).



Decarbonisation trajectory

Horsham District has pledged to be net zero by 2050, in-line with the UK's commitment. In order to achieve this commitment, 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. 2) shows that significant decarbonisation is required to be within a chance of meeting net zero 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 net zero by 2050.

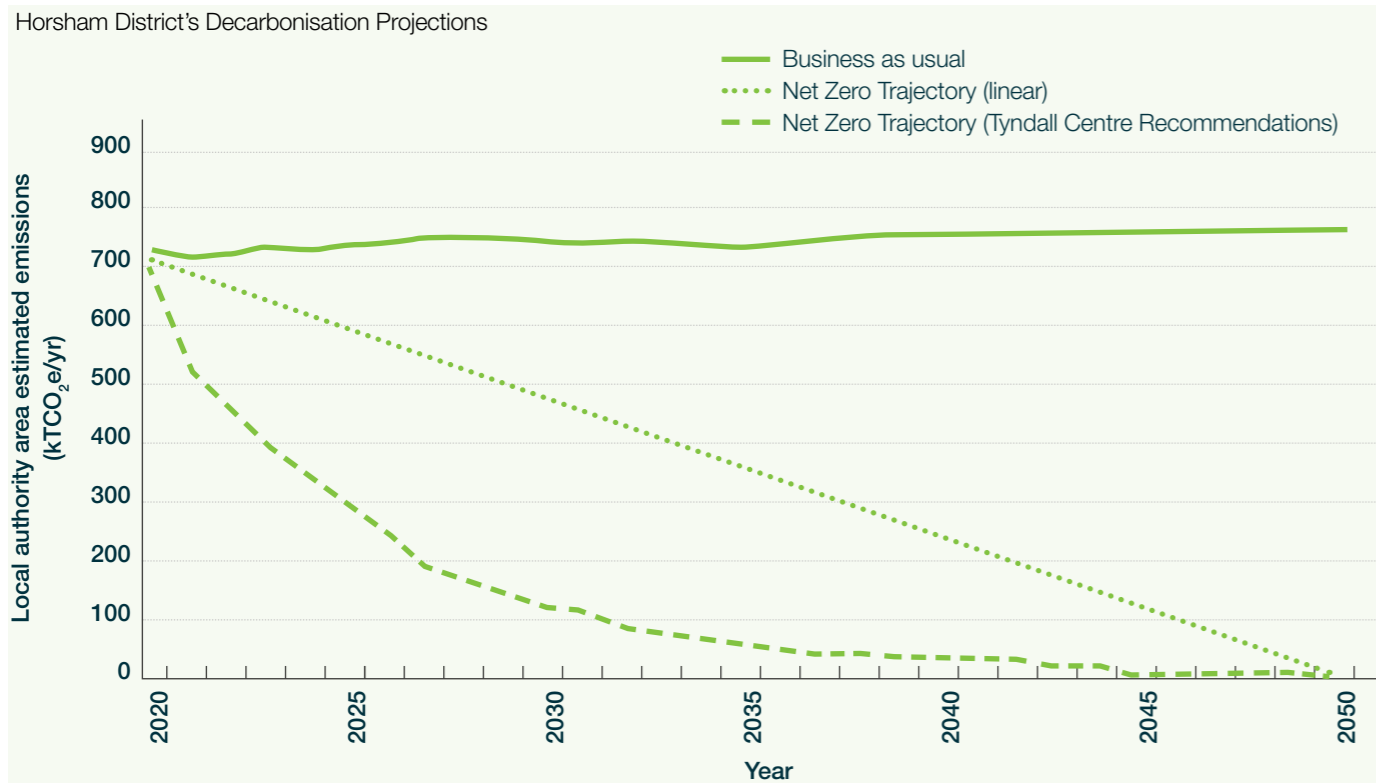


Fig. 2: Horsham District's carbon projections based on three future scenarios.

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.

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.

This included analysing numerous Strategies produced by Horsham District Council, as well as key partners, such as West Sussex County Council, the South Downs National Park Authority, and the Sussex Nature Partnership. All of these Plans and Strategies have been mapped onto an online platform known as One Planet. This can be used to show the links between these documents and how they contribute to the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy. The next step will be use One Planet to map what actions are taking place across the community, to show how all of these are delivering shared outcomes to tackle climate change.

One of the main policy documents for Horsham District Council that will have a direct impact on adapting to climate change and reducing emissions, is the Horsham Local Plan. The Regulation 19 version of the Plan was approved by Council on 11 December 2023. There will be a period of representations before a Planning Inspector conducts an independent Examination of the Plan. If the Plan is considered to be "sound" it will be formally adopted.

The Plan sets out the spatial vision, objectives, and policies for land use planning across the district (outside of the South Downs National Park) up to 2040. However, for some strategic scale developments the Plan looks beyond 2040 as these larger developments will take some years beyond that to complete. In line with Government advice, the vision for the Local Plan in respect of strategic policies looks at least 30 years into the future.

The overarching vision for the Local Plan is:

"A place where people from all backgrounds can choose to live and work, in a high quality natural environment and low carbon economy with access to high quality jobs, services and facilities and green spaces that are close to home."

One of the objectives is to:

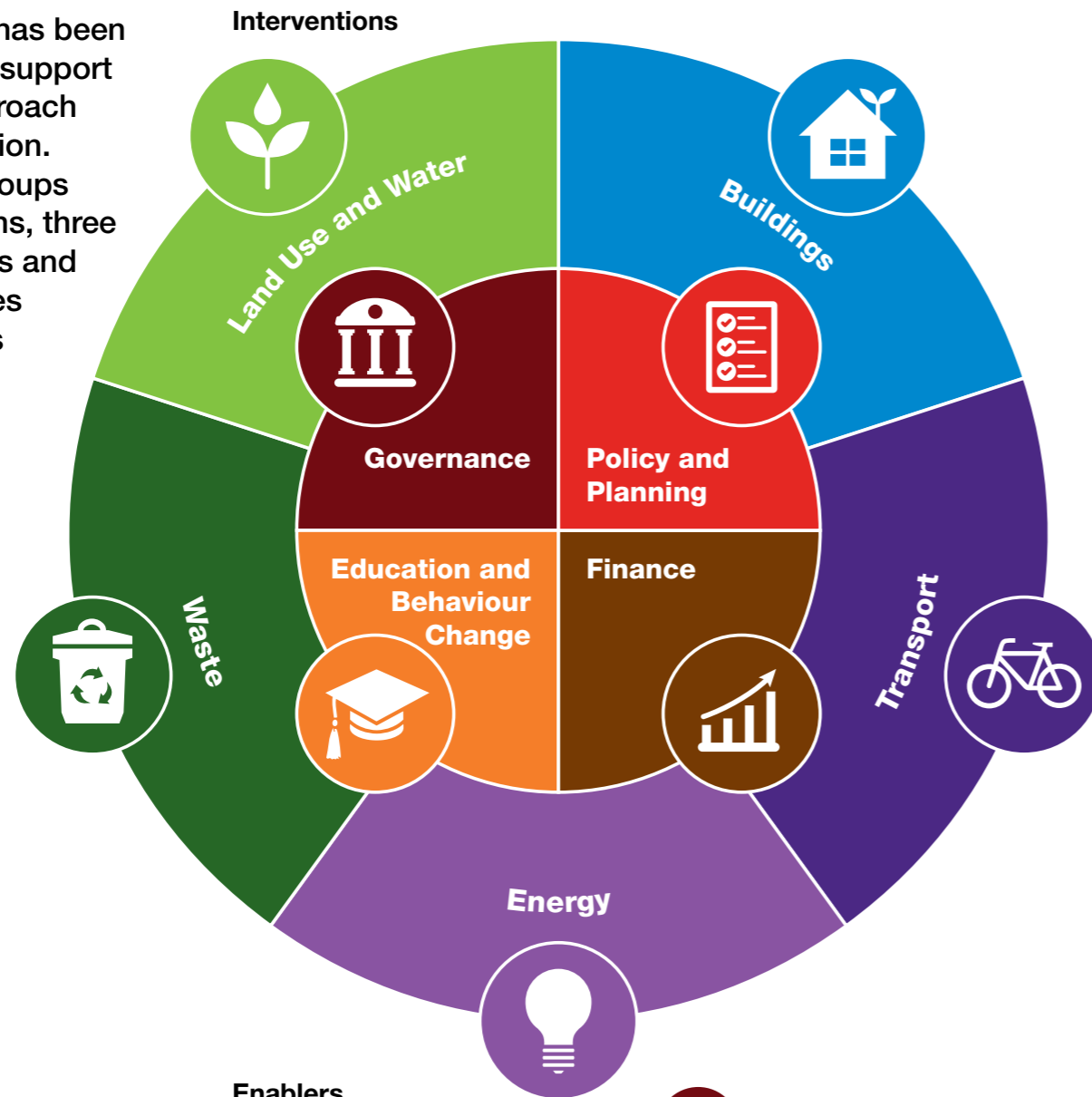
"Ensure that new development minimises carbon emissions and contributes to local and national net zero targets of 2030 and 2050. There will be adaptation to the changes to the climate, and reductions in climate emissions including through measures such as renewable, low carbon and decentralised energy."

There are several policies in the Plan that give further detail on these issues. Although the Plan has not yet been adopted, it marks a step change in the reduction of carbon emissions from new development and adapting to climate change. The Local Plan Regulation 19 has been finalised whilst the Climate Action Strategy was going through consultation and engagement. However, it contains policies that strengthen low carbon requirements for new development which is an action in the Strategy. It is expected that future iterations of the Local Plan and its supporting documents will continue to tighten these requirements for new development. This will depend on relevant changes to the Land Use Planning system, and also to relevant building regulations (for example, relating to the proposed Future Homes standard).

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**
-  **Education and Behaviour Change**

These enabling interventions build capacity and facilitate the delivery of system-led interventions.

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**
-  **Transport**
-  **Energy**
-  **Waste**
-  **Land Use and Water**

These system-led interventions strategically target Horsham District’s carbon hotspots or enhance existing carbon sinks.

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 County 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 2024.

 **Short-term:** Actions for 2024–26.

 **Medium-term:** Actions for 2026–29.

 **Long-term:** Actions for 2030 onwards.

The timescales for actions lead by HDC will be broken down further to ensure that these are delivered on time.

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.

Enablers

Enabling interventions and mechanisms will help build the capacity, relationships, and momentum of the Council, key partners, local communities, and businesses, to support the District's sustainable transition to net zero 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, net zero 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, net zero, 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 net zero.

Education and Behaviour Change



Sustainability, carbon reduction, 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 net zero 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 net zero.

Enablers – Climate Action Timeline

Key













Enabling Interventions

-  Governance
-  Policy and Planning
-  Finance
-  Education and Behaviour Change















Delivery Routes

-  Leadership
-  Partnership
-  Communities





Immediate

-   Create an internal governance structure to lead the delivery of low carbon, climate resilience, and sustainability work across the Council.
-   Develop and invest in new data collection and data sharing mechanisms.
-   Support Parish and Neighbourhood Councils in developing their Climate Action Plans and linking to community groups with an interest in the environment.
-   Continue to update and create accessible content to inform local businesses and suppliers on low carbon and sustainability topics, as well as distributing this through new channels and partners.
-   Invest in upskilling for Council officers, members and the wider community.
-   Continue to create and update sustainability and low carbon information for local communities, as well as using new communication channels.



Short Term

-   Partner with local students to conduct research on sustainability and low carbon topics.
-   Develop net zero and sustainability content on the West Sussex Business Hub and promote its use so businesses can share information and advice, as well as form a local network.
-   Strengthen sustainability and low carbon requirements for new buildings and new developments in Horsham District.*
-   Strengthen requirements for large-scale and small-scale low carbon energy generation and storage.
-   Develop a Green Business Strategy.
-   Update and strengthen the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Greenspaces Strategy.
-   Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Medium Term

-   Explore emerging green finance mechanisms and their potential application in the Council.
-   Consider scaling up the Community Climate Fund.
-   Support and encourage area-based carbon offsetting solutions.
-   Create a series of pop-up events for the Horsham District high streets.
-   Work with existing community groups to promote a circular economy and increase recycling rates.
-   Launch a comprehensive behaviour change campaign in partnership working with existing community groups.

Long Term

-   Consider the creation of a Sustainable Transition Fund using carbon offsetting solutions.

* The Horsham District Local Plan Regulation 19 was approved by Council on 11 December 2023. It strengthens these requirements. Further iterations of the Local Plan will consider further strengthening, depending on the planning system in place at the time.

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 and water efficiency of Horsham's homes, reduce fuel poverty, and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Commercial and Community Retrofit: To improve energy and water 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 by improving walking and cycling infrastructure, which will 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 a new electric vehicle charging network, as well as exploring 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 Goals:

- Low Carbon Energy Generation and Storage: To decarbonise Horsham District's energy consumption by maximising local low carbon and renewable energy generation, as well as 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 making good progress on this issue. This should 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, and can be used as a resource as part of creating a circular economy.

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 and Water



Horsham District's land uses absorb more carbon than they emit (a net carbon sink). This is due to a large amount of high-quality forest and grassland in the local. The amount that is absorbed is reduced by carbon emitted through farming processes. However, rural land can still deliver carbon savings as well as climate resilience (including reduce risk of flooding) and nature recovery as the impacts of climate change worsen. There is a direct link between these issues and water, through reducing flooding, water consumption, and pollutants entering rivers and streams.






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.
- Water Systems: To reduce water consumption across the district to support the recovery of water ecosystems, help to improve resilience to drought, as well as reducing flood risk and reversing the decline in water quality in rivers and streams.

Systems – Climate Action Timeline

Key











Systems Interventions

-  Buildings
-  Transport
-  Energy
-  Waste
-  Land Use and Water

Delivery Routes

-  Leadership
-  Partnership
-  Communities

Immediate

-   Investigate models for district wide retrofit programmes, to include reducing water consumption.
-   Collaborate with the Highway Authority to improve local public transport.
-   Collaborate with WSCC to build a EV charging network across the region.
-   Support the development of a District-wide Nature Recovery Network.
-   Contribute to the development of river catchment wide approaches to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and biodiversity.

Short Term

-   Explore opportunities to create a sharing economy.
-   Scale up existing local initiatives and implement new projects to reduce food waste, such as community and household composting.
-   Explore carbon sequestration opportunities with farmers and large landowners.
-   Promote alternative land uses, such as forestry, as well as sustainable and regenerative farming techniques to sequester carbon and improve biodiversity.
-   Support projects that reduce area wide water consumption, and implement the Sussex North Offsetting Water Strategy.
-   Improve access to healthy, fresh, local food that is produced using low carbon farm practices and increases food security in Horsham District.

Medium Term

-   Reduce food miles by encouraging local food production and consumption.
-   Support deep retrofit pilot projects and replicate best practice locally.
-   Encourage and support landlords and homeowners to retrofit their properties, including investing in energy efficiency and sustainability measures.
-   Support and invest in small-scale low-carbon, renewable energy generation and storage, including community energy schemes.
-   Explore opportunities to improve and create new community-led transport schemes.
-   Reduce single occupancy car use by supporting carpool and car sharing schemes, and other modes of transport.

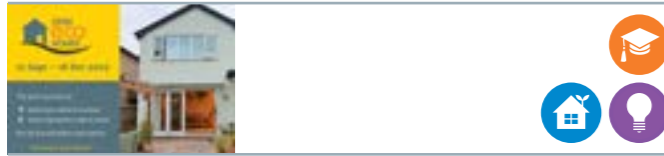
Long Term

-   Encourage and support commercial and community asset owners in retrofitting their properties.
-   Encourage large-scale low-carbon, renewable energy generation and storage solutions.
-   Implement the Horsham LCWIP, support the County Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy and maximise funding opportunities to improve cycling and walking infrastructure across the whole district.
-   Investigate opportunities for micromobility services.
-   Support businesses, including local taxi companies, in transitioning to EVs.
-   Implement a new food waste collection service for residents.
-   Invest in climate resilient infrastructure to adapt to extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall.
-   Support improvements to blue and green infrastructure across the district, including urban areas.
-   Investigate and implement tactical pedestrian zones and/or Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.
-   Investigate the potential of a distribution centre in urban areas throughout the district.
-   Investigate the potential of a Mobility Hub in Horsham Town Centre.
-   Explore opportunity for a hydrogen refuel station in the Horsham District.
-   Implement projects that provide business-to-business support to create a circular economy in the area.

Case studies

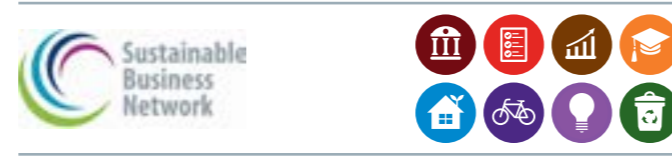
Case studies are helpful tools when implementing climate action strategies. They provide precedents and inspiration of what can be done through progressive leadership, proactive partnership and ambitious communities, as well as reflections on lessons learnt.

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.



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.

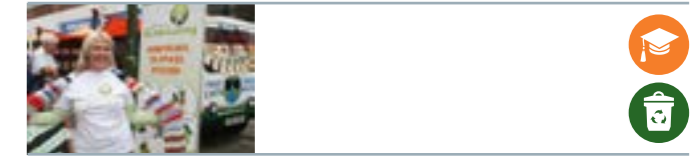
The aim is to increase the number of businesses operating sound sustainable business principles, and to position the Hampshire area as a low carbon leader.



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 net zero across Horsham District.

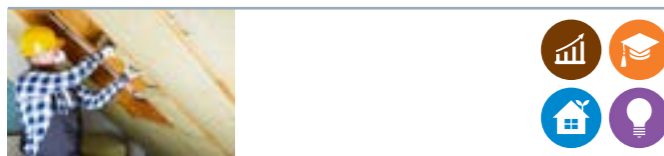
In doing so, the Council aims to support local groups and Parish Councils to take action in reducing carbon emissions within local communities. The Fund has set various priorities with which projects must align, including: carbon emissions, energy, water, waste, biodiversity, and transport.



Sussex Green Living

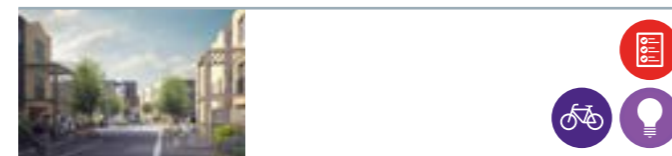
Sussex Green Living is a charity that provides a network and facilitates projects to support local communities to live more sustainably across Sussex. They provide information, education, tips, and advice to encourage communities to live more environmentally-friendly lifestyles.

The charity offers environmental services like the Horsham Repair Café, TerraCycle drop off points, 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.



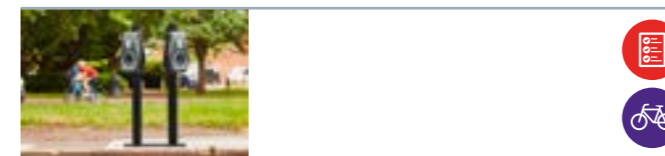
The UKGBC Retrofit Playbook

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.



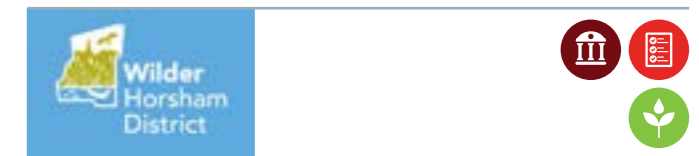
Project SCENE (Sustainable Community Energy Networks)

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.



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.



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 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 net zero and climate resilience.

Each Action is assigned a Delivery Route; this indicates where the Council has a leadership role and where it needs to work in partnership, 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.

Implementing the Strategy will bring numerous opportunities and benefits, such as job creation, improvements to health and wellbeing, better access to open spaces and nature, as well as reducing poor air and water quality. The actions in the Strategy need to be delivered in an equitable way to ensure that all residents and businesses can take advantage of these benefits, and are not disadvantaged by the changes that take place to move towards net zero and increased climate resilience.



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. Community groups and organisations will be encouraged to map their own actions onto One Platform, to show how these contribute to collective action.

The Strategy was developed by working with key partners and also via a consultation and engagement process with residents and businesses. Sharing information, engagement, and building partnerships with more organisations will continue to galvanise the scale of action that is required to tackle climate change which is a complex but important issue.

The Strategy will be reviewed and updated every two years, or sooner if needed, and a report giving details on progress being made on the actions will be available.

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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:

usefulprojects
part of the Useful Simple Trust

OnePlanet.



Horsham
District
Council