

Climate Change Action Plan

April 2023 - March 2024



Climate Change Action Plan: April 2023 – March 2024

The Climate Change Action Plan builds upon many years of work already undertaken and reductions in emissions already achieved. It sets out our areas of focus in each of the work streams from the Climate Change Strategy to identify how we will deliver our objectives. The Action Plan will be a living document and we will revise our plans as the climate and environmental emergency develops, targets are met, funding becomes available and new technologies emerge.

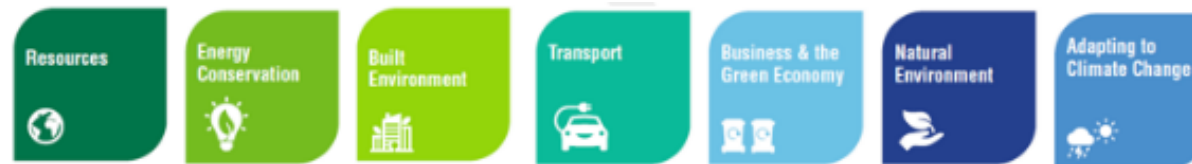
The projects in this action plan reflect work undertaken for The Council itself and also in a supporting role for the district. Braintree District Council continues to work on projects that reduce our own carbon emissions and reduce our impact upon natural resources and the wider environment. The Council and Partners are also committed to adapting to the impacts of Climate Change - to protect and prepare our residents, communities and businesses. Projects at district level reflect the support we aim to give to partners and our communities to tackle climate change.

All projects are monitored against one or more outcomes and it is recognised that projects may have wider benefits beyond one single outcome.

Our five Climate Change outcomes are-

Outcome	Definition
Carbon Reducer	An action that results in a calculable carbon reduction
Biodiversity Increaser	An action that results in the diversification and /or protection of habitats, species or vegetation
Developing the Green Economy	An action that supports the development of a low carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive, sustainable local economy
Climate Effect Mitigation	An action that protects against the impact of climate change on the built or natural environment
Climate Behaviour Change Influencer	An action that engages with individuals or businesses to reduce their carbon and environmental footprint

All actions will be categorised by the existing 7 themes



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Resources						
Conserve our Natural Resources						
Continue with campaigns to raise the profile of local food producers by promoting shop local and seasonal foods including plant based substitutes	Developing of the Green Economy Increased awareness of produce that can be sourced locally and the benefits of buying seasonal produce and swapping to plant based produce Increased support for local businesses	Environment / Marketing & Communications	District	March 2030	CC/001	On track
Create a learning and development programme for staff and members to increase their awareness on climate change and how they can reduce their own carbon emissions and contribute to those that can be achieved corporately	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase awareness of climate change issues Improved consideration of climate change issues across all services, projects and policies	Environment	BDC	March 2024	CC/003	On track
Review the Councils sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen the procurement process ensuring environmental considerations are made when procuring goods and services	Carbon Reducer Procurement specifications developed that supports carbon reduction and sustainability. Council is more aware of the environmental credentials of the contractors it works with Encourage more businesses to consider climate change credentials	Finance	March 2026	Medium Term	CC/005	On track
Develop an internal Climate Change SharePoint communication site	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Improved consideration of and collaboration with climate change issues across all services, projects and policies	Environment	BDC	March 2025	CC/074	New action

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	Improved access to partnership opportunities, funding streams and data collection					
Create and launch revised Climate Change pages to The Council's website	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase awareness of climate change issues Improved access to partnership support	IT / Environment	District	March 2025	CC/075	New action
Identify opportunities across the Council's assets for water reduction	Carbon Reducer Reduction in the use of water	Environment	BDC	March 2027	CC/076	New action
Work with partners to encourage residents and businesses to reduce their water use	Carbon Reducer Reduction in the use of water	Environment & Economic Development	District	March 2030	CC/090	New action
Reduce Waste, Increase Recycling						
Work with the Essex Recycling Forum and the Essex Waste Partnership on Countywide campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to reduce their waste and to maximise recycling	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Reduction of total waste collected Reduction in tonnage of residual waste and increase in percentage of waste recycled	Operations	District	March 2030	CC/007	On track
Review the waste management service to identify future working models and respond to the outcomes of the Environment Bill, including impacts on kerbside collections.	Carbon Reducer New 10 year waste strategy developed. Improved service delivery model implemented providing more sustainable ways of working. Reduce residual waste and increase recycling Ensure outcomes of the Environment Bill are understood and fed into the service review of the waste management service	Operations	BDC	March 2027	OP/21/004	Action delayed (adjusted to Medium Term Action)

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Reduce use of non-renewable resources						
Investigate opportunities to reduce paper and printing use across internal and external communications	Carbon Reducer Reduction in the use of carbon used by printing resources Biodiversity increaser	Marketing & Communications	BDC	March 2027	CC/077	New action
Investigate the use of Carbon Neutral laptops, and alternative equipment disposal / recycling schemes	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	ICT	BDC	March 2027	CC/083	New action
Energy Conservation						
Reduce energy use an improve energy efficient infrastructure						
Switch the Councils energy use to non-fossil fuel green energy tariffs	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions	Finance / Operations	BDC	March 2027	CC/012	Action delayed (adjusted to medium term action)
Increase energy efficiency and renewable technologies across Council equipment, assets and estates	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Finance / Environment	BDC	March 2030	CC/016	On track

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Complete a baseline audit of all meters (water, electric and gas) across the entire BDC property portfolio to investigate opportunities of resource efficiency	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment / Asset Management	BDC	March 2027	CC/078	New action
Commission street lighting repair contract to included LED replacement (including Halstead Public Gardens)	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	March 2025	ES/23/009/K	New action
Conduct an energy efficiency audit of all BDC buildings and investigate additional opportunities for renewable energy installations	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment / Asset Management	BDC	March 2027	CC/084	New action
Increase the proportion of energy derived from renewable sources						
Continue to research and evaluate ultra-low emission alternatives for the Council's fleet of vehicles	Carbon Reducer Identify opportunities to reduce the impact of the Council's impact on emissions	Operations	BDC	March 2026	OP/20/005	On track
Consider use of robust certified carbon credit schemes to offset any residual organisation emissions	Carbon Reducer Reduce Carbon Impact of organisation	Environment	BDC	March 2030	CC/018	On track
Increase renewable energy and fuel security for the Council and across the district by developing opportunities for renewable energy schemes with public/private sector partners	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	March 2030	CC/086	New action
Offer advice to parish councils and community groups wishing to invest in solar	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/087	New action
Investigate introducing solar canopies across the car park at The Plaza	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	March 2025	CC/088	New action
Improve energy efficiency of existing housing stock						

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Continue to work with partners to address the complex challenge of fuel poverty through targeted campaigns and signposting to grant funding and areas of support	Carbon Reducer People in fuel poverty have access to affordable, low carbon warmth. Improved energy efficiency in homes and reduced costs for residents Reduction in CO2 emissions	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/019	On track
Continue with campaigns providing information to residents on saving energy measures to help reduce emissions, including promotion of retrofit schemes for homeowners	Carbon Reducer District emissions reduced. Campaigns successfully delivered. Increase in residents sign posted to grants	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/020	On track

Built Environment

Reduce the carbon impact and improve biodiversity of new developments

Review and evaluate the potential of an offset fund (106 agreements) or allowable solutions mechanism for developers to pay into when a certain high level of energy efficiency of buildings is not able to be met in the development and use this money for carbon saving projects	Carbon Reducer Reduced CO2 impact from new developments	Environment / Planning	BDC	March 2030	CC/028	On track
Introduce the mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain Legislation (<i>for major applications Nov 23 for minor applications by Apr 24</i>)	Biodiversity Increaser Increase biodiversity Decrease the impact of construction on local nature sites	Planning	District	March 2025	CC/101	New action

Reduce household water consumption and maximise installation of sustainable drainage systems, water reuse and grey water harvesting technologies

Work with ECC to ensure that all new development sites have sufficient "green/blue" infrastructure to mitigate flooding through the Sustainable Urban Drainage System Strategies submitted at Planning	Climate Effect Mitigation Reduced risk of flooding in new developments	Planning	District	March 2026	CC/029	On track
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Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Reduce energy use in existing households by retrofitting energy efficiency measures						
Work with registered housing providers and registered landlords to progressively increase the energy efficiency of social housing stock	Carbon Reducer Reduces CO2 emissions from homes Reduced cost of energy for residents	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/031	On track
Deliver the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 Scheme in off gas areas to improve energy efficiency	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ / Marketing & Communications	District	March 2027	CC/079	New action
Promote The Energy Company Obligation Scheme (ECO4) and ECO Flex scheme offering energy efficiency measures	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/080	New action
Work in partnership with iChoosr to deliver the Essex Energy Switching Scheme by holding auctions	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/081	New action
In partnership with Groundworks, deliver the extended Green Doctor Service, advising residents on energy efficiency	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ / Marketing & Communications	District	March 2025	CC/082	New action
Deliver Solar Together scheme to support the installation of solar energy in residential and business premises	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ / Marketing & Communications	District	March 2025	CC/085	New action
Support the Community with grants from community infrastructure projects to reduce carbon emissions funded by the UK SPF	Carbon Reducer Reduces CO2 emissions from community buildings Reduced cost of energy for community groups	Environment	District	March 2027	CC/091	New action

Transport

Grow electric vehicle network and infrastructure areas

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Support ECC to continue to build up the on-street charging infrastructure across our District for electric vehicles	Carbon Reducer Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	March 2026	CC/033	On track
Install electric rapid charging points in the Council's car parks and continue to install additional chargers in BDC assets	Carbon Reducer Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	BDC	March 2027	CC/092	New action
Complete a feasibility study for installing rapid EV charging points in all of the taxi ranks in the district	Carbon Reducer Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	March 2025	CC/093	New action
Explore the opportunities around a EV salary sacrifice leasing scheme for staff.	Carbon Reducer Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicles	Human Resources	BDC	March 2025	CC/094	New action
Investigate working in partnership with DigiGo to improve EV charging infrastructure for the electric bus network	Carbon Reducer Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	March 2025	CC/095	New action
Investigate an e-scooter scheme	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Reduction in CO2 emissions Improvement in air quality	Economic Development	District	March 2025	CC/100	New action
Increase cycling and walking in the District						
Continue to work with LiveWell partners to encourage people to get active and walk more	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Housing & Communities	District	March 2030	CC/035	On track
Produce an LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) for Witham and environs	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Development	District	March 2025	ED/23/005/C	New action

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Engage with ECC on Braintree LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Development	District	March 2025	CC/097	New action
Partner with ECC on the proposal for a County wide LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Development	District	March 2025	CC/098	New action
Encourage greener transport choices						
Continue with campaigns to reduce engine idling targeting specific high traffic areas	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Reduction in CO2 emissions Improvement in air quality	Marketing & Communications	District	March 2030	CC/038	On track
Work with Essex County Council to improve the quality and availability of low carbon public transport	Carbon Reducer Increase in use of more sustainable travel options Reduces CO2 emissions from public transport	Environment	District	March 2026	CC/041	On track
Review the Council's Driver and Vehicle Standards and Policies to create a greener fleet of taxis in the District	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions from taxi fleet and pollution Reduction in fuel costs from taxi fleet.	Environment	District	March 2026	CC/042	On track
Engage with staff to support the Staff Green Travel Plan	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Environment	BDC	March 2025	CC/099	New action

Business and the Green Economy

Developing the Green Economy

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Work with Essex County Council and other service providers to identify opportunities to develop low carbon skills, education, training and employment opportunities and support ECC Centre of Excellence.	Developing the Green Economy Increase employability of our residents in the green economy and advanced manufacturing to help improve the productivity in the production of goods and services that support the sustainable agenda Attract new business in the green economy and encourage green sector companies to cluster in the North Essex local economy Increase overall awareness of climate change issues and how to tackle them	Economic Development	BDC	March 2026	ED/21/009/C	On track
Work with partners to maximise the impact that that I-Construct brings to the construction sector and its supply chain, championing modern design and construction methods	Developing the Green Economy Reduced carbon from construction process and new developments Increased sustainability in design of new buildings Develop our green economy	Planning / Economic Development	BDC	March 2030	ED/21/009/C	On track
Work with landowners, DEFRA and ECC to encourage sustainable land stewardship practices on land across the District, including rewilding and tree planting.	Biodiversity Increaser Increase awareness and consideration of Climate Change issues for those developing Neighbourhood Plans	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/045	On track
Encourage businesses to reduce energy use						
Continue to encourage businesses to switch to ECO heating and reduce energy use	Carbon Reducer Increase in the number of referrals to support and take up of funding. Reduction in energy use	Economic Growth / Environment	District	March 2030	CC/048	

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Continue to promote carbon footprint tools to businesses	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Improvements identified and implemented by businesses to reduce carbon impact	Economic Development / Environment	District	March 2030	CC/049	On track
Provide support to businesses across the District on the development and implementation of green travel plans	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase in number of businesses implementing a green travel plan Reduction in CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Development	District	March 2030	CC/050	On track
Introduce a Climate Change/Green Environmental Accreditation Scheme or Business Award scheme to recognise and showcase initiatives that can be adopted as best practice and to encourage businesses to become carbon neutral.	Developing the Green Economy Increase awareness of opportunities to become carbon neutral Increased sharing and recognition of best practice across businesses	Economic Development / Environment	BDC	March 2026	CC/051	On track
Encourage businesses to build resilience						
Collaborate with the voluntary sector and business sector across Essex to share learning, data, best practice and, to look at joint initiatives to tackle climate change	Developing the Green Economy Successfully sharing knowledge and resources to increase our opportunities to collaborate for grant funding Reduction in carbon impact of businesses and voluntary sector organisations	Economic Development	BDC	March 2030	CC/052	On track
Natural Environment						
Improve biodiversity and green spaces						
Continue to deliver campaigns to support a reduction in littering and fly-tipping	Biodiversity Increaser Reduction in fly-tips Reduction in littering Cleaner District	Operations / Marketing & Communications	District	March 2030	CC/053	On track

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Work with ECC and Housing Associations to increase biodiversity by reviewing maintenance regimes, refine grass cutting, consider more sustainable planting schemes consistent with the highest biodiversity standards and promote rewilding/naturalisation of areas.	Biodiversity increaser Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District	Environment	District	March 2027	CC/058	Action ongoing (adjusted to medium term project)
Explore opportunities to use council owned land to develop community orchards and community gardens (to grow veg or fruit)	Biodiversity Increaser Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District Increase opportunities for communities to grow fruit and veg Increase community engagement in enhancement of local areas	Environment	BDC	March 2026	CC/059	On track
With the support of ECC, produce soil carbon and biodiversity potential maps for the district	Biodiversity Increaser Increase soil quality Increase carbon sequestration Increase richer habitat creation	Planning & Environment	District	March 2027	CC/104	New action
As a supporting authority, support Essex County Council with the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Biodiversity Increaser Increase biodiversity Increase richer habitats Improve attractiveness of District	Planning	District	March 2027	CC/105	New action
Increase tree and shrub planting						
Use the findings of the tree canopy survey to inform the future Tree Strategy	Biodiversity Increaser Increase tree canopy cover Increase carbon sequestration Improve attractiveness of District	Planning	District	March 2027	CC/102	New action
Use the findings of the tree canopy survey to 1) inform tree planting projects 2) assist ECC with their sustainable stewardship in the Climate Focus Area 3) protect existing tree canopy 4) use the baseline data to support partnership groups such as water companies	Biodiversity Increaser Increase tree canopy cover Increase carbon sequestration Improve attractiveness of District Increase partnership opportunities	Planning	District	March 2027	CC/103	New action

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and the North Essex Farm Cluster with their environmental stewardship projects						
Improve water quality, flood resilience and habitat						
Work with the Environment Agency/Anglia/Essex Suffolk on the management of watercourses to enhance their flow and storage capacity and deliver wider biodiversity benefits	Biodiversity Increaser Improve water quality Improve biodiversity Reduce flooding	Environment	District	March 2026	CC/063	On track
Work with Partners to support raising the profile of maintenance / caring for waterways bisecting the district with residents	Biodiversity Increaser Species protection Access to baseline data to develop improved water quality Improved public engagement for waterway	Environment Marketing & Comms	District	March 2030	CC/106	New action
Adapting to Climate Change						
Support communities to improve resilience						
Continue to provide advice for residents on how to reduce health risks during severe weather events such as heatwaves/extreme cold	Climate Effect Mitigation Increased accessible information available to residents on health risks from climate change Increased resilience of communities to climate change	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/064	On track
Work with Town and Parish Councils to develop their emergency plans, ensuring the plans reflect the changing risks of their communities	Climate Effect Mitigation Increase in number of Parish and Town Council with Emergency plans developed. Successful collaboration on climate emergency related areas of work Increased resilience to climate change impacts in our communities	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/065	On track

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Support registered social landlords in developing a Climate Strategy and delivering Climate Action Plans	Carbon Reducer Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	March 2027	CC/089	New action
Work with town and parish councils to advise and support with advising on adapting to Climate Change; declaring a Climate Emergency and writing a Climate Change Action Plan	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase opportunities for climate change actions across the district	Environment	BDC	March 2030	CC/109	New action
Promote and celebrate actions taken by residents, organisations and businesses in addressing Climate Change	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase opportunities for climate change actions across the district	Marketing & Communications	District	March 2030	MC/23/003/C	New action
Work with the members of the new Youth Panel to give a platform for young people in the district on Climate Change matters	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase opportunities for climate change actions across the district	Housing & Communities	District	March 2025	CC/108	New action
Improve flood alleviation for communities that flood						
Work with Essex County Council and other partners to manage climate change-related flood risks and mitigate the number of homes and businesses across the District that are exposed to the risk of flooding	Climate Effect Mitigation Reduction in flood risk Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/066	On track
Lobby Government to increase the funding available for flood risk management to meet the growing need for action especially around surface water flooding	Climate Effect Mitigation Reduction in flood risk Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/067	Action ongoing (adjusted to medium term action)

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Projected Completion Date	Internal Project Code	Status
Work with partners to open up main rivers and create wetlands, natural flood defences and urban drainage, as supported by the Local Plan and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document	Biodiversity Increaser Improve water quality Improve biodiversity Reduce flooding	Planning	District	March 2030	CC/068	Action ongoing (adjusted to medium term action)
Prevent the impacts of climate change disproportionately harming the most vulnerable						
Monitor and seek to mitigate emerging risks and their impact on vulnerable people in the community with ERF partners	Climate Effect Mitigator Increased resilience of communities to climate change impacts	Environment	District	March 2030	CC/073	On track
Delivery and Monitoring						
Support communities to improve resilience						
Ensure relevant internal strategies and policy documents are reviewed and amended to embed the work of the Council in its commitment to tackling climate change	Climate Behaviour Change Influencer Increase opportunities for climate change actions across The Council All strategies and policies are reviewed and updated to take climate change impacts into account	Environment	BDC	March 2026		On track



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Date of publication: January 2024