



# Climate, Environment, and Biodiversity Delivery Plan

2025 - 2028



## Our commitment:

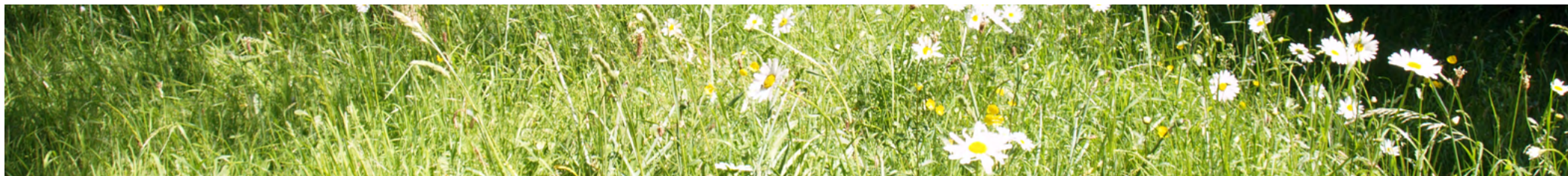
South Norfolk's rich natural landscapes and diverse ecosystems are at the heart of this new Climate Change, Environment, and Biodiversity Delivery Plan. Designed to protect local wildlife and preserve vital habitats, including ancient woodlands, grasslands, hedgerows, and river valleys, the plan also addresses the growing challenges of climate change, such as rising temperatures, drought, and flooding. By promoting sustainable land use, biodiversity recovery, and stronger environmental protections, it lays the foundation for a greener, more resilient future.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions within our organisation by 2030 and across the district by 2050. Covering the period from 2025 to 2028, this strategy outlines the key actions needed to reach these goals, prioritising climate action, biodiversity conservation, and environmental quality.

Enhancing our Environment is one of the four key priorities in [Our Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028](#), with the objective to provide environmental leadership to build a cleaner and more sustainable future which conserves our environment for generations to come.

## Our vision:

- **Leading the Way:**  
Committing wholeheartedly to reaching our organisational net zero goal by 2030.
- **A Sustainable District:**  
Creating a community that recognises climate change realities and actively prepares for its challenges.
- **Nature at Heart:**  
Safeguarding, revitalising, and enriching natural habitats and green spaces for generations to come.
- **Driving Transformation:**  
Demonstrating strong leadership and inspiring collective action across neighbourhoods, districts, and regional networks to progress climate and nature initiatives.
- **Collaboration in Action:**  
Partnering with stakeholders from public, private, and voluntary sectors to achieve common environmental goals.



## Our responsibility:

The evidence on climate change is clear. Alongside this, the ongoing loss of biodiversity calls for a thoughtful and proactive response. Our efforts must contend with the financial pressures faced by local governments and the broader cost-of-living challenges that affect our communities. Although the Council's own emissions account for less than 1% of the district's total carbon footprint, our role extends far beyond reducing our own output. By achieving our 2030 net zero target and championing innovative solutions, we aim to inspire residents and businesses to join us in envisioning and realising a sustainable, low-carbon future for all.

## The mandate for change:

Our actions are guided by pivotal national legislation, including the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, which enshrines the UK's net zero by 2050 target, and the Environment Act 2021, which addresses critical issues such as air quality, biodiversity, water management, and waste.

## Our Delivery Plan:

The delivery plan for 2025–2028 lays out a comprehensive roadmap of initiatives that will help us fulfil our vision and meet our net zero commitments. These targeted actions demonstrate our commitment not only to tackling climate change but also to preserving nature and safeguarding the distinctive landscapes of South Norfolk, ensuring a sustainable future for both people and wildlife.





# The Net Zero journey:

## South Norfolk District: territorial emissions

This Delivery Plan outlines key initiatives aimed at reducing domestic emissions, including the Norfolk Warm Homes Programme and Solar Together. Additionally, national policies will play a crucial role in district-wide decarbonisation efforts, with the decarbonisation of the electricity grid being of particular significance. The Council's role will involve encouraging the transition away from fossil fuels in both residential properties and vehicles. We are also committed to supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce emissions. Through a series of dedicated events, we will provide businesses with the necessary tools and guidance to advance their net zero journeys.

Queen's Hills Community Park, Costessey

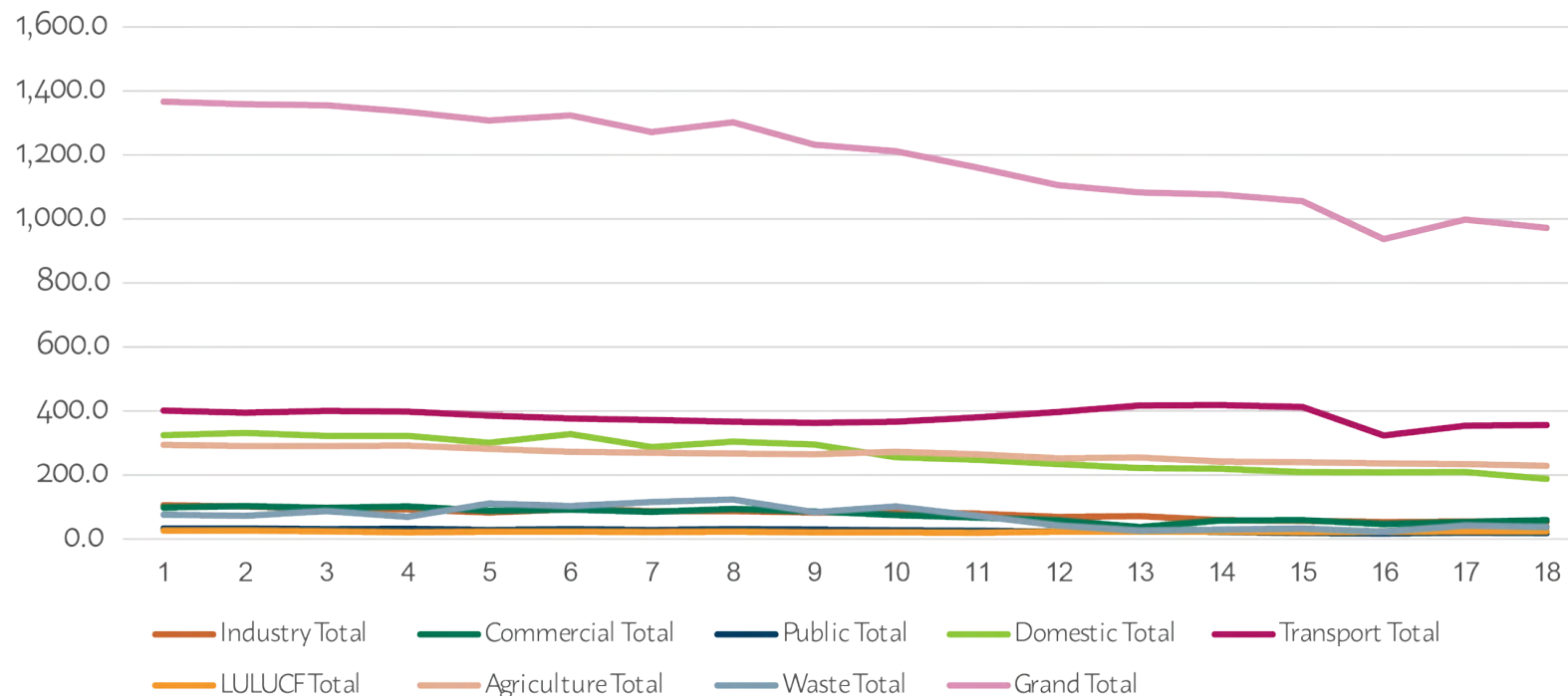




The district is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, in alignment with the Government's net zero target established under the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. In 2022, territorial emissions for South Norfolk were recorded at 971 KtCO<sub>2</sub>e and have been steadily declining since 2005. The sectors contributing the highest emissions within South Norfolk are

transport, domestic (residential properties), and agriculture. Although the Council does not have direct control over the majority of these emissions, we will actively leverage our influence to support and enable residents and businesses to reduce emissions within these sectors.

### Greenhouse gas emissions for South Norfolk district (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e)





## South Norfolk Council: organisational emissions

South Norfolk Council is dedicated to achieving net zero carbon emissions as an organisation by 2030. Our annual carbon footprint, which is published online, serves as the foundation for this objective.

In 2023/24, our carbon footprint was recorded at 2,480 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a reduction from 2022/23 and is the second lowest among all local authorities in Norfolk.

Our waste collection fleet now run on HVO fuel.



The Horizon Centre, South Norfolk Council office



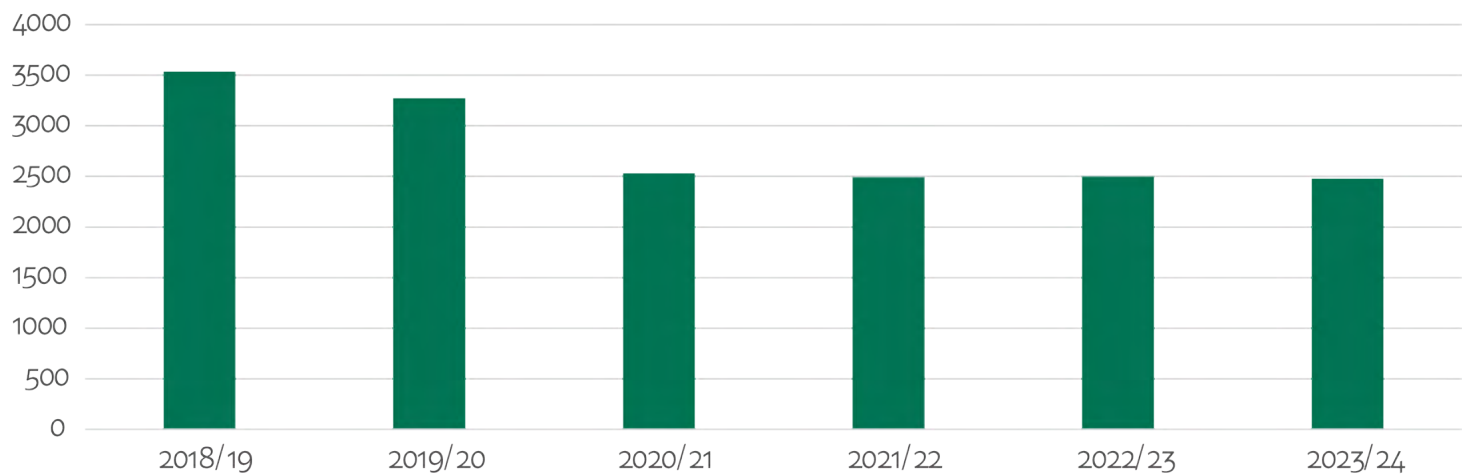
The accompanying chart illustrates our progress in emissions reduction since the baseline year. Since 2018/19, emissions have decreased by 29%.

Since 2018/19, progress has been made in reducing our carbon footprint. All of our purchased grid electricity is supplied by a 100% renewable tariff. A key milestone was achieved in 2024 with the transition of fuel used in our waste collection fleet from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO). This was followed by the relocation of our offices from South Norfolk House to the Horizon Business Centre in 2023.

Further reductions are anticipated in the 2024/25 report, as gas boilers at the Horizon Centre have been replaced with air source heat pumps. We have also upgraded Diss Leisure Centre replacing gas boilers with air source heat pumps, installing insulation and a PV system. In addition to this a temporary housing accommodation has received significant upgrades including a ground source heat pump and Solar PV system.

Future initiatives will include the exploration of alternative vehicle options for the waste fleet, such as electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles. Additionally, work is underway on a project to install Solar PV panels at Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centres.

**Carbon Footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**





# Core aspect one: Net Zero 2030 Council - reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions and adapt to climate change

## Context:

South Norfolk Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Our annual carbon footprint, published online, serves as the foundation for this goal. In 2023/24, our carbon footprint was measured at 2,480 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a reduction since the baseline year, and the second lowest of all Norfolk District Council's. While our footprint is fairly small, further actions are essential to fully realise our target. The initiatives outlined in this section are key to achieving net zero emissions by 2030. Beyond mitigating climate change to meet our net zero goal, we recognise the necessity of adapting our services to the changing climate. To this end, we have included a critical action to integrate climate considerations into the Council's emergency plan.

This is one of the three air source heat pumps being lifted into position at Diss Leisure Centre. Funded via the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme this will provide zero emissions heating for the building.





## Previous achievements:

We have made notable progress in reducing our carbon footprint, in 2024 we switched our waste fleet from diesel to HVO fuel and all of our purchased electricity is 100% renewable. We relocated our office from South Norfolk House to the Horizon Building which has a significant solar array. Looking ahead, further savings are anticipated in the 2024/25 report with the replacement of gas boilers at the Horizon Centre by air source heat pumps, refurbishment of Diss Leisure Centre and a Temporary Housing facility. We are also on track to install large solar arrays at two leisure centres.

Rapeseed field, Wymondham



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC1	Report on annual carbon emissions on our website. Following the methodology of the 2018/19 baseline report	Demonstrates progress from baseline and against the net zero 2030 target	Report published online	Annual – report published each year	Economic Growth
NzC2	Independently verify the process of calculating the council's carbon footprint and scrutinize the 2023/24 carbon footprint report	Independent verification of the council's carbon emissions to ensure best practice is being upheld	Verification of figures published in carbon report  Recommendations to be adopted and any methodology to be adopted in subsequent reports	2025	Economic Growth
NzC3	Publish a decarbonisation roadmap	A year-by-year roadmap that the actions required to achieve net zero by 2030	Report published online	Published December 2025	Economic Growth



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC4	All council led construction projects will be highly energy efficient. Design standards will aim to reduce embedded carbon and ensure buildings are operationally net zero	<p>All projects achieve high efficiency standards such as BREEAM Excellence, or EPC A rating</p> <p>As a minimum, all new projects shall have high thermal performance and include renewable energy generation</p>	Each new council project to be monitored by the Capital Programme Board to ensure this standard is met 100% of council construction projects to meet this criteria	Ongoing delivery through to 2028	Council wide
NzC5	Ensure that the procurement of goods and services consider environmental impacts and assist in reducing the council's carbon emissions	Develop a new procurement strategy which embeds environmental considerations and sustainability	A carbon offsetting options appraisal	End of 2026	Economic Growth in collaboration with Norfolk environmental credits

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC6	Understand the Council's residual carbon emissions and how these can be managed or offset	Explore available opportunities, and options, for dealing with residual carbon emissions by offsetting in South Norfolk	A carbon offsetting options appraisal	End of 2026	Economic Growth in collaboration with Norfolk environmental credits



The solar car ports at the Horizon Centre generate renewable energy to help power our building.



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC7	Reduce all CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions resulting from Council owned housing stock	<p>Audit and work programme for improving the energy efficiency of council own housing stock</p> <p>This will consider necessary upgrades to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions across Council owned housing stock</p>	<p>Audits completed</p> <p>Development of work programme and plan for improving energy efficiency of council owned homes with an initial target to decarbonise two homes per annum</p>	<p>Audit and programme adopted 2025</p> <p>Ready for implementation in 2026</p>	Economic Growth and Housing
NzC8	Reduce emissions incurred through staff travel	<p>Provide a range of low emissions options for both staff travel and commuting</p> <p>Reduce the need for staff to travel</p> <p>Provide more sustainable options for business miles, such as electric pool cars</p>	An annual decrease in staff travel/ business mileage emissions measured in the annual carbon footprint report	Annual decrease commencing in 2027	Economic Growth, HR, facilities

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC9	Climate Change adaptation fully considered in the Council's Emergency Response Plan	The Council's emergency response plan considers the impacts of climate change and suggests actions for climate change adaptation	Update to the emergency response plan	End of 2025	Emergency planning
NzC10	Quantify the social and environmental value of Council projects	Develop a tool and process to calculate social and environmental value of Council projects. Adopt a credible, and existing, toolkit and methodology	Embedding of methodology into Council decision making processes	End of 2025	Economic Growth
NzC11	Ketteringham - Refuse collection fleet options appraisal	A decarbonisation options appraisal to inform any future depot requirements	Completed options appraisal	2025	Economic Growth



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzC12	Reduce reliance on grid electricity at all Council owned Leisure Centres	Install solar panels and Battery storage systems at Long Stratton and Wymondham Leisure Centres	Project completion due in September 2025	2025	Economic Growth and Leisure
NzC13	Understanding routes to decarbonise Wymondham Leisure Centre	A decarbonisation options appraisal	Completed options appraisal and business case	2025	Economic Growth and Leisure



# Core aspect two: Net Zero 2050 South Norfolk - reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change

## Context:

South Norfolk Council has set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the district by 2050, aligning with the UK Government's commitment under the Climate Change Act. While the Council does not directly control the majority of emissions within the district, it plays a crucial role in influencing, enabling, and encouraging action across all sectors. South Norfolk's main sources of emissions are **transport, agriculture, domestic housing, industry and commercial**.

This strategy prioritises action in the domestic housing and transport sectors, as they are key contributors to carbon emissions. The Norfolk Warm Homes team continues to maximise funding opportunities from the national government to help residents improve energy efficiency and heating systems. Transport, the largest emitting sector in South Norfolk, accounts for 37% of the district's territorial emissions, compared to 26% nationally. The Government's Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, which phases out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle sales, will be a significant driver of change. This national legislation, coupled with local initiatives, will help accelerate our progress towards a cleaner, greener South Norfolk.



Diss Mere

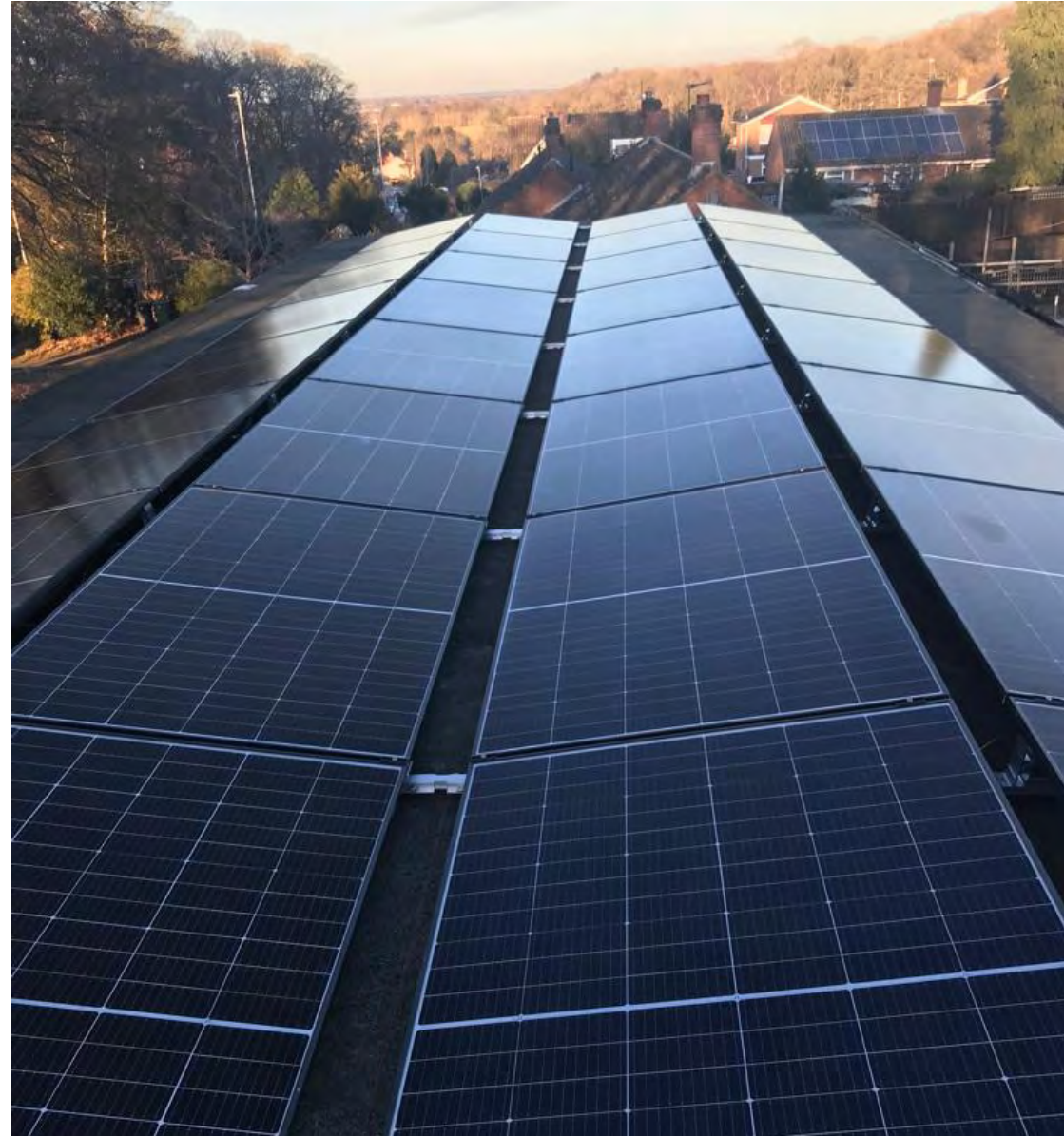


## Previous achievements:

The Norfolk Warm Homes team has delivered substantial improvements since 2022, upgrading 519 homes across the Norfolk Warm Homes project area. These improvements include installing air source heat pumps, Solar PV systems, and a wide range of insulation measures such as loft, cavity wall, and flat roof insulation. South Norfolk Council leads (with Broadland) this successful programme and is actively seeking additional funding through the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) to expand its reach.

Operationally, we have provided significant electric vehicle infrastructure (EVCPs) for our residents by installing EVCPs in our owned car parks in our market towns. We have also broadened this effort by providing EVCPs and Solar PV systems directly to Town and Parish Council run buildings within the District.

This is a solar PV system installed at one of our temporary housing accommodations. Funded via the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme, this will provide renewable energy to the building and help to lower energy bills.



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzSN1	To develop a Local Area Energy Plan	An energy plan to be used to plan for, and deliver, major projects on renewables, retrofit and transport charging networks	One completed LAEP plan	2028	Economic Growth and Planning
NzSN2	Support community resilience and preparedness for the future effects of climate change	The Council will provide expert resilience advice and support to communities in South Norfolk. This will support the development of community resilience plans	<p>Ongoing work with communities to advise on plans</p> <p>Officers of Climate Change Team will attend the Norfolk Resilience Forum meetings</p>	By 2028	Emergency Planning

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzSN3	Seek to enforce standards that specifically address fuel poverty through proactive and reactive programs using MEES Regulations and any other relevant legislation	Increase in the Energy Efficiency of tenanted properties	By the number of energy efficiency measures installed in private rented properties following intervention from housing standards officers	2026	Housing Standards
NzSN4	Encourage residents to switch to clean energy	Promote the 'Solar Together' group buying scheme to encourage the uptake of solar panels, battery storage and EV charging	Monitor number of registrations and acceptances for each annual scheme	2028	Warm Homes Team



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzSN5	Deliver domestic retrofit projects which improve both energy efficiency and CO2e emission reductions	Secure Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) funding via the Warm Homes team to maximise delivery across housing stock	Reporting provided monthly to DESNZ  Subject to funding 950 homes will be delivered over a three year period. These figures are for the whole project area, South Norfolk will receive a proportion of this funding based on eligibility and take up	2028	Warm Homes Team
NzSN6	Provide high quality energy efficiency and energy bill related advice to residents who enquire or participate in retrofit schemes	Consistent and trusted energy advice provided to residents requiring support	100% residents who enquire through Norfolk Warm Homes and require assistance will be provided with high quality, trustworthy, energy bill advice	2028	Warm Homes Team

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzSN7	Build partnership agreements with communities identified as most at need of support via the Government funded domestic retrofit schemes	<p>Using data to identify economically deprived communities and then create or join local support networks to help these communities to improve their resilience to climate change</p> <p>Community directories will be produced to provide a legacy of engagement for communities</p>	The Warm Homes Project as a whole aims to provide a full package of support/engagement to thirty communities. This covers the whole project area	2028	Warm Homes Team & Partners
NzSN8	Offer practical biodiversity enhancements for domestic dwellings through the Norfolk Warm Homes scheme	<p>Improved garden biodiversity and habitats for wildlife</p> <p>Better engagement with nature for Warm Homes recipients</p>	<p>Offer biodiversity enhancements to 100% of grant recipients</p> <p>Photographic evidence of installation work will be collated</p>	2028	Warm Homes Team & Partners

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
NzSN9	Offer practical water saving enhancements for domestic dwellings through the Norfolk Warm Homes scheme	Improved water efficiency in domestic dwellings participating in the Norfolk Warm Homes scheme	Offered to 100% of grant recipients  Photographic evidence of installation work will be collated	2028	Warm Homes Team & Partners

Since 2018 the Norfolk Warm Homes team has delivered significant energy efficiency and clean heating improvements for eligible Norfolk residents most in need of housing energy efficiency support.



Installation of solar panels by Norfolk Warm Homes



# Core aspect three: Protect and enhance the environment

## Context:

The Environment Act 2021 establishes clear statutory targets across four critical areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste. South Norfolk Council is at the forefront of delivering these objectives, taking proactive steps to meet environmental challenges while supporting sustainable growth in our community.

- **Air Quality:** The Council's Environmental Quality Team continuously monitors air quality across the district, ensuring compliance with national guidelines. The UK Government's 2023 Air Quality Strategy outlines ambitious goals, including stringent targets for PM2.5, a fine particulate matter with significant health implications. In response, the Council is preparing for the likely introduction of a mandatory local air quality objective for PM2.5, a measure with far-reaching implications. By leveraging advanced monitoring equipment and producing an interim Air Quality Strategy, we are actively working to understand and mitigate local pollutant levels and in doing so safeguarding public health.
- **Fly-Tipping:** Broadland District Council is dedicated to keeping public spaces clean and addressing fly-tipping—a persistent issue with hundreds of incidents reported annually. Our approach combines education, investigation, and enforcement to tackle this problem comprehensively. A dedicated officer leads efforts in raising awareness, engaging the community, and ensuring offenders are held accountable. This work is supported by routine waste collection, recycling services, and targeted campaigns to reduce fly-tipping at its source.
- **Water Management:** Flooding remains a pressing climate change challenge in the UK, with increasing frequency and severity of events. South Norfolk Council plays a pivotal role in addressing flood risks, despite the fragmented responsibilities shared among various authorities. Our dedicated Flood and Water Management Officer spearheads local initiatives, including a robust Flooding Prevention Action Plan. This strategy provides practical support, fosters community resilience, and reduces the impact of flooding. As an active member of the Norfolk Resilience Forum, we contribute to emergency planning and encourage residents to prepare through individual and community-level measures.

## Our achievements:

- **Air Quality** - We have procured state-of-the-art monitoring equipment that provides continuous data on pollutant gases and particulate matter. This technology enhances our ability to assess local air quality and its health impacts. Additionally, the development of our interim Air Quality Strategy positions the Council and its partners to achieve national objectives while charting a clear path forward based on current information.
- **Fly-Tipping** - The Council's holistic approach to waste management tackles fly-tipping at every level. This includes robust waste collection and recycling services, public education campaigns, and thorough investigation and enforcement processes. A dedicated officer leads efforts to engage with the community, ensure compliance, and remove waste promptly.
- **Water Management** - Our Flooding Prevention Action Plan delivers targeted interventions to reduce flooding risks. We actively contribute to the Norfolk Resilience Forum, which coordinates emergency planning for severe weather events. By promoting individual and community resilience, the Council empowers residents to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of flooding.



Smockmill Common, Saxlingham Thorpe

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Pe1	To improve air quality in South Norfolk	Develop an air quality strategy which focuses on, and actively gathers, monitoring data	Publish and implement the strategy	2025	Environmental protection
Pe2	Reduce incidents of fly tipping	Raise awareness in communities regarding the impacts of fly tipping. Make it easier to report incidences through use of social media	Recording of fly tipping investigation, reporting on prosecutions and other restorative interventions  Measure engagement/ use of the Where's The Flytip Facebook page	2028	Community protection



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Pe3	Raise awareness of the environmental impacts of oil pollution and poor air quality	Run proactive communications campaigns specific to environmental issues. Work with the air quality Norfolk group	Bi-annual campaigns	2028	Environmental protection
Pe4	Promote water conservation	Reduce water waste and mismanagement	Bi-annual campaigns	2028	Environmental Protection
Pe5	Improve Water Management across the district by working with local stakeholders, particularly those that fall within flood risk areas	Improved local community resilience on water management  Improved flood prevention and preparedness education delivered to stakeholders	Annual reporting into Scrutiny  Positive engagements with stakeholders	2028	Environmental Protection

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Pe6	Deliver high quality planning consultation responses to maximise positive influence on flood prevention, mitigation & protection	Responses to planning applications are focussed on preventing flooding for new developments	Engagement with the planning process	2028	Environmental Protection



## Core aspect four: Waste and recycling

Our Waste and Recycling Team hold small electrical and textile recycling events for communities across our district.



### Context:

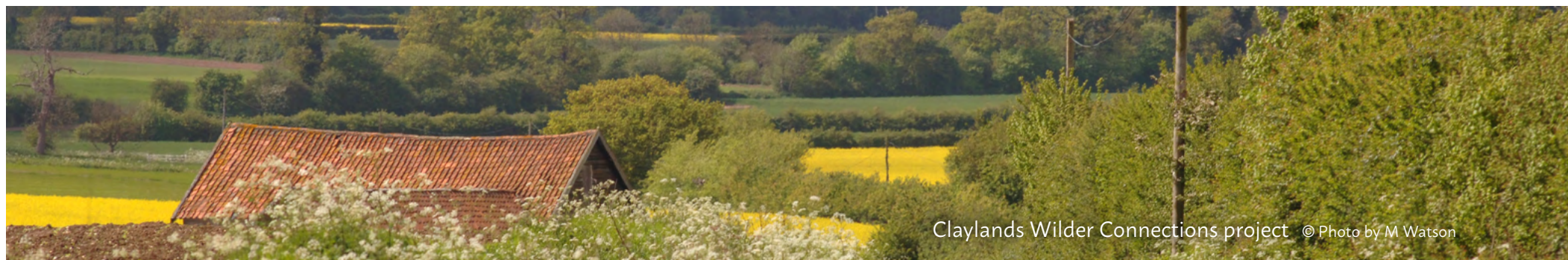
The Environment Act 2021 introduces several legislative changes regarding the management of waste and recycling in households, schools, and workplaces. These changes aim to enhance national recycling rates and encourage the development of a circular economy. The regulations, which will be implemented over the coming years, will significantly alter the processes for managing, tracking, and reporting waste and recycling. While these regulations represent a substantial step towards improving circularity in the UK, they also pose notable challenges and opportunities for the council. It is therefore crucial that the council remains well-informed and adequately prepared to capitalise on the benefits these changes offer while mitigating any potential negative impacts.

### Our achievements:

- **Recycling** - South Norfolk's Recycling rate has fluctuated between 40 - 43% since 2020, positioning South Norfolk as the third best recycling authority in Norfolk.
- **South Norfolk Binapp** - We have developed the South Norfolk Bin app; a mobile application has been developed to provide residents with up-to-date information regarding recycling and collection services.
- **Recycling events** - Our Waste and Recycling Team have also hosted several extremely successful small electrical recycling events in numerous locations across the district, which have been exceedingly well-received by residents, and over the last 18 months has collected over 5 tonnes of small household electricals for recycling.



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Wa1	Promote waste reduction	Reduce weight of residual waste per household on average by 5kg per household per year	Quarterly report generated through WasteDataFlow will monitor the average household reduction	2028	Waste and recycling team
Wa2	Increase capture of recyclable material	<p>Reduced level of recyclable material in residual waste bins by 20%</p> <p>Increase recognition rate of recyclable material</p> <p>Increased recycling rate</p>	WasteDataFlow details recycling rate and recycling tonnage in quarterly reports	2028	Waste and recycling team



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Wa3	Promote campaigns to reduce single use items	Higher usage of reusable items and alternatives for single use items	<p>Promote alternatives to common single use items at four events per year</p> <p>Six social media posts and six app notifications per year on single use alternatives</p>	2028	Waste and recycling team
Wa4	<p>Support and Encourage community recycle, repair and re-use schemes</p> <p>Offer further support and collaboration with community groups to promote repair and reuse</p>	Increased use of recycle, repair and re-use schemes	<p>Four recycle/ repair and re-use events each year.</p> <p>A record of the following will be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of bulky items reused</li> <li>• Number of items repaired</li> <li>• Number of items delivered to bring/take events</li> </ul>	2028	Waste and recycling team

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Wa5	Increase recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and textile recycling service	<p>Providing additional services for residents to easily recycle electricals and textiles</p> <p>Retaining valuable resources from electricals form becoming waste</p>	Reports on tonnages of WEEE and Textiles collected per quarter	2028	Waste and recycling team





## Core aspect five: Biodiversity, nature recovery and green infrastructure

### Context:

The Environment Act 2021 sets out clear duties for local authorities to restore and enhance biodiversity, recognising the essential role of nature in addressing climate challenges and enriching communities. South Norfolk Council is committed to meeting these responsibilities through forward-thinking and impactful projects.

### Council duties under the Environment Act

The Act requires Councils to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to reverse biodiversity loss and safeguard ecosystems. These strategies include mapping existing habitats, identifying areas for restoration, and integrating biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure into planning processes. South Norfolk Council is actively embedding these requirements into its policies and projects, ensuring all development contributes positively to local ecosystems.



## Our achievements:

- **Planning Policies** - we have integrated biodiversity requirements into planning, ensuring all new projects deliver a 10% net-gain.
- **Conservation Efforts** - the Council has supported habitat restoration initiatives on its own sites, from improving pollinator-friendly meadows to preserving woodland biodiversity.
- **Caistor Roman Town** – this is a large asset on the edge of Norwich which is used for informal recreation. Recent projects include improving the access to the site. Future projects will include improving the permissive access to the site, small visitor centre, toilets and an education space.
- **Queen's Hills Community Park** – we are continuing to make improvements to the footpath network as well as developing a local volunteer group to help manage the diverse range of habitats on this site which is designated a County Wildlife Site. In addition, the meadows adjacent to the River Tud have been fenced so that conservation grazing can be introduced to improve the biodiversity of the area.

## A commitment to nature recovery

South Norfolk Council's proactive approach to biodiversity ensures that our district thrives both ecologically and socially. By developing our duties under the Environment Act we will ensure a greener, healthier South Norfolk for all. This commitment demonstrates that protecting nature is not just a statutory obligation—it is an investment in the well-being of our residents and the long-term resilience of our environment.



<b>Ref</b>	<b>Project objectives</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>How it is measured/report progress</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Lead (team)</b>
Bng1	Restore and enhance biodiversity in South Norfolk	Development of a Council wide Biodiversity Plan	Adoption and implementation of strategy	2026	Climate Change Team
Bng2	Understand the Biodiversity Baseline in South Norfolk in order to set a target to improve biodiversity	Carry out a district wide Biodiversity Baseline	One completed Biodiversity Baseline	2027	Climate Change Team
Bng3	Increase the provision of green infrastructure by creating high-quality access to new and existing green spaces in South Norfolk	Enhance and expand green spaces by developing new paths, improving access, and exploring opportunities for a new country park	<p>Feasibility/options appraised and new projects in development</p> <p>Subject to feasibility appraisals, successful project to be taken forward for 2030 delivery completion date</p>	<p>2025/26</p> <p>2028 onwards</p>	Climate Change Team



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Bng4	Encourage communities to take proactive steps to improve biodiversity through the new Nature Conservation Fund	<p>A grant scheme to fund biodiversity and greenspace projects for local communities and parishes</p> <p>Work in conjunction with other local schemes to ensure that funding is additional and not duplicated</p>	<p>No. of grants awarded</p> <p>Success of scheme to be reported on annually</p>	Ongoing	Climate Change Team
Bng5	Work with the Greater Norwich partnership and other organisations to deliver biodiversity and nature recovery	Seek to adopt a range of documents, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>An adopted LNRS</p> <p>An adopted Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	2026	Economic Growth
Bng6	Reduce the impact of nutrient levels in water courses	To develop a nutrient management mitigation fund	Nutrient mitigation facilitated via Norfolk Environmental Credits	Ongoing	Place Directorate

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Bng7	Achieve a biodiversity net gain on all new developments	To ensure that through development and land management the natural world is in a measurably better state than it was beforehand	All planning applications where Biodiversity Net Gain is a requirement will meet the 10% gain	Ongoing	Planning
Bng8	Promote biodiversity on Council owned land	Creation of a biodiversity improvement regime for specific Council owned sites	Regimes developed for three new sites per annum	Ongoing	Community Assets



# Core aspect six: Empowering communities to tackle climate change

## Context:

Achieving a net zero target of 2050 will require strong engagement with both our local communities and our businesses. Raising awareness about climate change impacts and providing support for practical action are essential steps. South Norfolk Council is committed to developing community leadership, empowering individuals, and organisations to reduce their environmental impact while driving local solutions to global challenges.

Through initiatives such as carbon literacy training the Council will seek to equip residents and businesses with the knowledge and tools, they need to lead on climate action. By promoting collaboration and sustainable behaviour, we aim to create a district that is informed, resilient, and united in addressing climate change.



Billingford Windmill, Brockdish Wortham



## Our Achievements:

In 2024, the Council delivered an Electric Vehicle Chargepoint (EVCP) and Solar PV grant scheme for Town and Parish Councils, funding 12 different projects across the district, including the installation of 11 EVCPs and 7 solar PV systems. The scheme was designed to increase the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the district, as well as to support Town and Parish Councils in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs from their buildings.

## Looking ahead:

South Norfolk Council remains dedicated to expanding climate engagement efforts, with plans to:

- Deliver training sessions to reach a wider audience of residents and community groups on how they can support nature recovery in their communities.
- Host additional business-focused events to support sustainable operations and innovation.
- Provide resources that inspire long-term change and highlight local success stories to motivate others.



Ella May Barnes Building, South Norfolk © Photo by R G Carter

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Ec1	Improve understanding and raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues to drive positive behavioural changes	Develop and run a series of sessions for individuals, small organisations and Town and Parish Councils on how they can support nature recovery and climate mitigation in their communities	5 sessions delivered annually for each group	2028	Climate Change Team
Ec2	Climate change and net zero support for businesses  Deliver “Net Zero Go” workshop series for local businesses	“Net Zero Go” & sustained net zero support for businesses  Education and awareness on renewable energy technologies available for commercial buildings	3 sessions delivered annually  Social media and website communications	2028	Climate Change Team

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Ec3	Support the development of “green skills” and jobs through supporting the Building Futures apprenticeships support scheme	Continued support of the Building Futures scheme	5 apprentices supported	2026	Economic Growth
Ec4	Identify and work alongside the largest emitters in South Norfolk to identify ways in which they can reduce their carbon emissions	Engage with the largest emitters within South Norfolk	Annual engagement with emitters to provide update on net zero commitments and actions	2028	Climate Change Team



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	How it is measured/report progress	Timescales	Lead (team)
Ec5	Deliver a Net Zero Norfolk Communities project alongside the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)	Delivery of project through Innovate UK funding	Project delivered with community and learnings disseminated	July 2025	Climate Change Team
Ec6	Help businesses reduce their carbon footprints and improve the efficiency of their operations	Support the take up of solar by local businesses by understanding the barriers to solar installations and developing a solar for business programme	Research into the barriers which prevent the adoption of solar  Develop a solar for business programme	2027	Climate Change Team

Queen's Hills Community Park, Costessey

