

Appendix B - Essex Climate Action Commission Interim Report Recommendations

It should be noted that many of the Commission's recommendations are for other public sector bodies, businesses, charities, community groups and residents to deliver. However, ECC is working with stakeholders and aims to support businesses and residents in taking climate action.

Recommendation
New Homes and Communities
All new homes consented to be carbon zero by 2025.
All new schools commissioned to be carbon zero by 2022.
All new commercial buildings to be carbon zero by 2025.
All new schools commissioned to be carbon positive by 2030.
All new homes and non-domestic buildings consented to be carbon positive by 2030.
Active travel prioritised: designing walkable and low traffic neighbourhoods, exploring built-in last mile delivery solutions (among other options), and delivering Walkable Neighbourhoods; workshops to commence from October 2020
Publish a Climate Change Compendium through the Essex Design Guide in 2021
The creation and maintenance of 'Healthy Places' in terms of design, placemaking and place management to ensure these locations both positively contribute to physical and mental health and mitigate climate change
Review highways and transportation policies where they impact on place shaping, the provision of sustainable transport and sustainable construction practices
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as the default in all new developments, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
A nature-based approach to design and green infrastructure requirements included in local planning guidance
Developers to implement green procurement standards for construction
Engagement and partnership with developers, including the establishment of an Essex Developers' Group to collaborate and set up demonstrators of green construction
Explore the establishment of an 'Energy Sector Alliance and Innovation Hub' to build and develop climate action and resilience-related construction skills
A net zero major demonstrator project by Essex Housing to commence building by 2023
Delivering a Flood Resilience Levy by 2022

Recommendation
Existing Buildings & Urban Regeneration
Incorporate national green infrastructure requirements from the government's 25 Year Environment Plan into local planning
Two-thirds of homes should be retrofitted to net zero standards by 2030
From existing residential buildings, a 50% carbon reduction by 2030 and zero carbon by 2040.
One-third of commercial buildings should be retrofitted as far as is possible with renewable energy systems by 2030
Set goals for reversing the national decline in urban greenspace and include greenspace 'retrofit' programmes in Local Plans
Including water efficiency in energy efficiency retrofit plans
Partnerships with businesses and green construction training for a zero-carbon future
Resilience to Coastal and Surface Flooding and Extreme Weather
Coastal flood resilience schemes in critical areas to be implemented by 2023
The scale and impact of change is acknowledged by those with responsibility for the coast and communicated to the people who live there
A new policy for coastal flood risk and erosion management is drawn up with clear, evidence-based outcomes
SuDS is implemented in all new developments and enforced, with clarity over who adopts and maintains it
A support service on adaptation for businesses is re-established – this could be at local or national government level
Transport & Highways
Introduce three new subsidy-free Park and Choose sites by 2030
Introduce 20 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods per annum from 2022 to 2030
Introduce an additional 20 school streets per year to 2050
Introduce dedicated, well-planned cycling and walking routes across all urban and rural locations, and to all rail stations
Upgrade and expand the National Cycle Network and integrate with existing local routes
Work with business to improve on-site facilities and develop routes
ECC to publicly state its commitment and funding to rebuild passenger transport services hit by market failure since the pandemic
To invest in innovative passenger transport solutions such as demand responsive transport using electric vehicles, aiming for commercial viability
Promote safe and accessible public rights of way
Expand the three existing Park and Ride and school zones projects

Recommendation
Improve cycling infrastructure to/from schools
Introduce school streets for 25 schools by 2022
Introduce six e-scooter pilot schemes across the county by the end of 2020
Introduce emissions charging and/or parking charges in town centres and ringfence income to invest in public transport and active travel schemes
Introduce five workplace levy schemes
Explore car sharing options
Launch county-wide National Car-Free Day
Support innovative solutions for last mile deliveries, introduce 10 local delivery hubs by 2022 and explore options such as retiming deliveries to reduce peak time congestion
Grow the electric vehicle charging network and capitalise on the facilities provided by the new Gridserve electric forecourt to charge and promote electric vehicles to encourage uptake of electrical vehicles (EV Strategy)
Electrify the authority's fleet
Park and Ride: Embed micro-mobility solutions and EV charging points at all sites; use Park and Ride as a stepping stone to public transport and ringfence income for sustainable transport investment.
Energy And Waste
(substantial further recommendations have been approved post the interim report)
Partnership with businesses to support them to move to carbon zero and use green procurement practices, for example promoting the financial benefits of installing renewables and smart meters
A feasibility study into Energy Sector Alliance and Innovation Hub by 2021
Engaging Our Communities
(substantial further recommendations have been approved post the interim report)
Encourage large businesses to disclose physical risks of climate change, using frameworks such as the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure, or the Adaptation Reporting Power
Actively promote energy efficiency advice and guidance to communities and businesses, particularly SMEs
For local authorities and businesses to work together to improve on-site facilities for cyclists
For the Essex Developers Group to set up a working group to develop a Climate Change Charter and run demonstrator projects.

Recommendation
Public Sector Leadership
The ECC estate will have net zero greenhouse emissions by 2030
All new schools commissioned to be carbon zero in terms of the operation of buildings 2022.
All anchor institutions (such as universities) buildings to be retrofitted to net zero carbon by 2030
50 per cent of schools retrofitted to net zero by 2025 and 100 per cent by 2030
Installing renewables on public sector buildings
Development of action plans to reduce overheating risk in all schools, care homes, hospitals etc.
Advanced smart meters into all ECC schools by 2021
Optimise energy use in the public estate (25 per cent saving by 2025, 50 per cent by 2030).
Leveraging government funding for decarbonisation, including the £1 billion Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
Lobbying Government
All departments across Government to hold climate challenge as central to core ambitions and funding
Government to champion and fund nature-based approaches
Planning policy and building regulations: make net zero and climate resilient standards mandatory for all new homes and buildings
MHCLG to amend building regulations to support net zero, climate resilient buildings
Funding for retrofit to improve homes and resilience infrastructure, including offsetting for historic properties
Re-establish a support service on adaptation for business. A national adaptation support service would be ideal; however this can also be established locally.
Invest in active travel including long term funding for upgrading and expanding cycle networks
Stop fuel duty freeze and introduce 'polluter pays'
Funding for local authorities to deliver increased energy efficiency of the public estate and schools
Enable local government and the Environment Agency to deliver long term and resourced approach to engaging affected communities and stakeholders
Apply more weighting to non-residential properties in the Flood Defence Grant partnership funding process for flood resilience to make it fairer