



Special Interest Group Updates to ECAC

December 5th, 2023



Essex County Council

Updates

- Land Use and Green Infrastructure
- Energy
- Waste
- Built Environment
- Transport
- Community Engagement
- Just Transition





Land Use and Green Infrastructure





ESSEX LNRS

LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

- Kat Marketing Employed to widen engagement
- Webinar and workshops - between Nov and Jan
- Opportunity maps in production
- Drafting Strategy content – pulling together input from stakeholder meetings
- Next steps Public consultation Spring 24





ECC Biodiversity Duty

- Local authorities and LPAs must publish a **biodiversity report**.
- ECC must complete the first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by **1 January 2024**
- Actions that can be taken are split broadly in three areas:
 - Manage land to improve biodiversity
 - Educate, advise and raise awareness
 - Review internal policies and processes
- First half of 2024 – produce a Biodiversity Plan to set out actions
- 2024 – 2026 - Delivery of biodiversity actions
- 1st January 2026 - Biodiversity Report of delivery





Essex Forest Initiative Update

- Estimates Essex Forest Initiative (EFI) nos 130,000 for this year
- EFI have secured
 - Local Authority Treescapes Fund - £300,000
 - Urban Tree Challenge - £2,100,000
- For every ECC £1... EFI have raised £11.17 from external funds
- EFI also actively manage 154 hectares of woodland
- ECC Tree Statements for ECC estate to be approved imminently





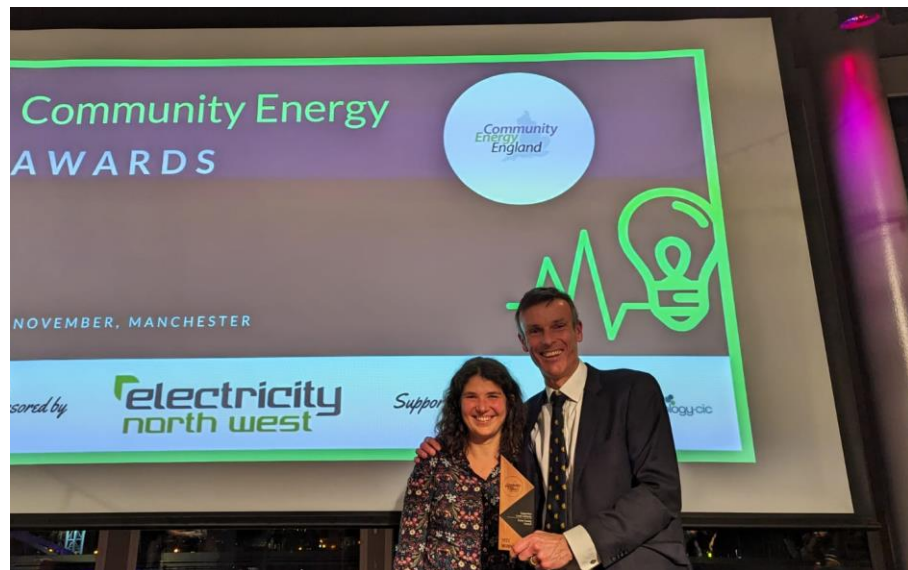
Energy and Waste





Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Essex County Council's work on community energy was **recognized at the Community Energy England awards** where ECC won in the category of "Supportive Local Authority"
- Tollesbury Climate Partnership – a group supported by ECC – were shortlisted for the "Advancing Innovation" award for their project to retrofit the local primary school
- **More communities continue to come forward** looking to develop local energy projects. We expect new community energy groups to form in Maldon (Heybridge & Maldon + Burnham on Crouch) following recent successful "community hall" meetings
- Positive conversations on-going to set up new groups in Harlow and Basildon including a **youth led** community energy group
- Positive engagement with Church of England national environment team, upcoming meeting with Chelmsford Diocese to discuss opportunities for joint working on community energy





Renewable energy + Retrofit

- CommuniPower - a “whole village” approach to decarbonising heat and power - successful kick off in Uttlesford working with Saffron Waldon Community Energy, Uttlesford DC and Community Energy South
- Retrofit: Home Upgrade Grant which runs to March 2025 – funding allocation of £18.7m for Essex to deliver retrofit measures in low income households – programme is now live
- Retrofit: ECC working with Districts to agree mechanism for administering OFGEM Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 funding to unlock further energy efficiency grants for low income households
- OFGEM Strategic Innovation Fund - Project “SHIELD” – **low cost heat and power for low income households**- £0.5m Alpha bid to pilot technology in 2 households with UKPN **was successful** – will now bid for Beta stage of £10m+ to fund scale up

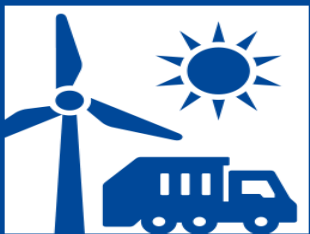




Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Scaling up Local energy - Innovate UK “Pathfinder Places” fund:
 1. EssNet – removing multiple “non-technical” barriers to enable local communities to bring forward local renewable energy projects at scale – successful bid to the Pathfinders programme to extend existing work
 2. Shift to Net Zero – scaling up investment in getting our schools to net zero – successful bid to the Pathfinders programme
- Solar Installations
 - Exploring options for roll out of solar across the schools estate in Essex working with community groups
 - Kicked off work with Local Partnerships to look at the viability of solar farm developments on 2 sites owned by ECC with options for private wire connections. Exploring options for those developments to be financed and owned by communities.
 - Secured £50K grant from DESNZ Net Zero Hub to explore feasibility of installing energy centres (Solar canopies and storage) at ECC park and ride sites





Waste



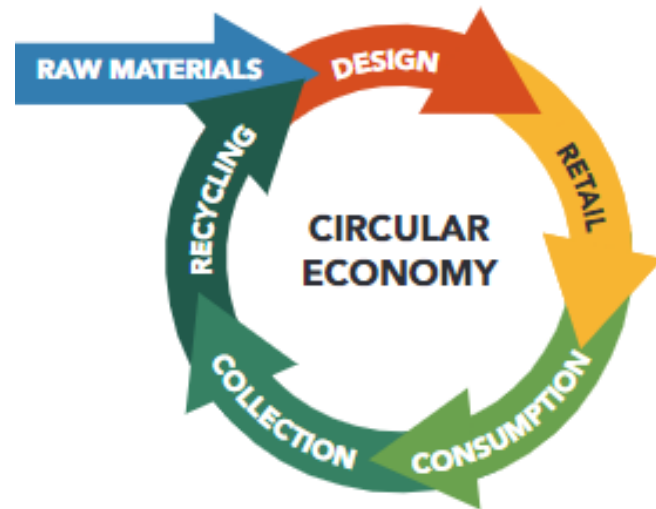


Waste Strategy for Essex

- Developing a shared vision and approach to managing waste in Essex
- Public consultation completed (4,500+ responses)
- Analysis & strategy refinement underway
- Adoption and Action Planning - 2024

Strategy Priorities

- Move to a Circular Economy
- Decarbonisation of Waste Systems
- Achieving Zero Waste
- Enhanced Reduction & Recycling Services
- Encouraging Behavioural Shift





Project Highlight Summary

Collaborative Working:

- North Essex collaboration on shared service provision to efficiency and reduce impact of waste service
- Joint project to explore alternative fuels for municipal waste fleet & plant
- Shared route planning to reduce waste miles

Food Waste:

- Encouraging food waste reduction and recycling
- 390,000 households targeted throughout Essex
- Information and support coupled with distribution of liners and containers





Project Highlight Summary

Reuse:

- Reuse partnership with community sector expanded to multiple sites
- Analysis ongoing ahead of a proposed whole system roll-out
- Training and infrastructure improvements to maximise reuse

Recycling & Composting:

- Relaunched waste services in Basildon centred on recycling and reduction
- Core service reviews underway in four district areas
- Focussed activity to increase service access and recycling materials collected





Built Environment



Built Environment

New build

Net Zero Carbon New Homes

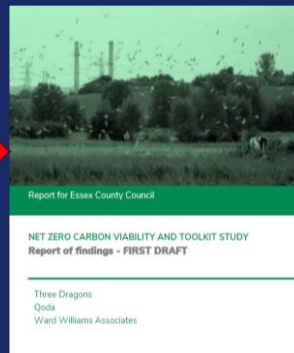


Graham Thomas - Head of Planning and Sustainable Development

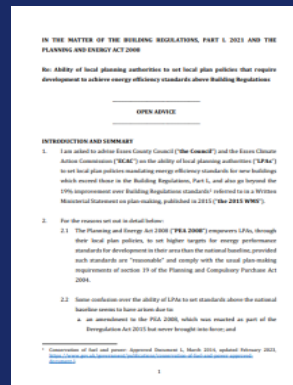


Developing NZ carbon housing policy & Evidence

- Viability Evidence



- Legal Evidence



- Net Zero Policy Evidence



Consistent
Policy

Support for
LPAs



Outcomes - Achieved

The Climate and Planning Unit
received an award in the Essex
Housing Awards for their leadership
in Greater Essex in recognition
of their Net Zero carbon new homes
work.

Uttlesford DC are the first Council
in Essex to adopt a Net Zero new
homes energy policy in their draft
Local Plan





Transport





Sustainable Transport

New Cabinet Member

- New cabinet member: Cllr Tom Cunningham Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, and Deputy Leader for Braintree

EV

- Locations for ~66 on-street residential chargepoints agreed with operator - currently awaiting governance sign off
- Work beginning on £8M Local EV infrastructure bid.

Cycling

- National Highways exploring two new walking and cycling routes
 - M25 Junction 28 into Brentwood
 - Hatfield Peverel to Boreham.
- Rolling annual Cycling and Walking consultations - currently Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Witham.

Policy

- Local Transport Plan and Place & Movement (new road hierarchy) endorsed by scrutiny
- Speed Management Strategy under review

Community Rail

- Annual Christmas train took place at the weekend taking children and their families to Wickford Christmas Market



Cllr Tom Cunningham



Community Rail Partnership
Annual Christmas train



Sustainable Transport

Active Travel

- “All Roads lead from home” journey planning tool won Community Engagement of the Year at Modeshift Sustainable Travel Awards last week.
- Essex Pedal Power was recognised as highly commended at both the Highways Awards and the UK Active Awards.
- Colne Causeway Crossing in Colchester (Active Travel 4) and Station Way, Colchester (Active Travel 2) completed.
- Active Travel 4 grass routes engagement completed – new approach, worked well

Passenger Transport

- Intended to submit ZEBRA 2 bid – Basildon.
- ~£500,000 funding from Department for Transport awarded to Essex, Thurrock and Southend to recruit 6 transport officers who will help stamp out nuisance behaviour on public transport.
- Travel Essex Website in testing – hoping to go live this week.

Major projects

- Army and Navy funding has been awarded
- Department for Transport announcement on pothole funding – unclear what it means for ECC
- Winter Service has launched
- Beaulieu Bridge has opened



Just Transition to a Green Economy

December 2023 update

Green Entrepreneurs

Insert video link here:

<https://youtu.be/T5rlqFqUIZA>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL09tfL-lkZRIwZHgcpOI38ciyexZkd12U>

**Next Year: RFQ for Green Entrepreneurs
iteration 2 and 3 to go out Jan 2024.**



Great Start

- Accreditation scheme – Starting with Waste focus.
- Help businesses with managing their waste and on their sustainability journey.
- Content to include webinars, videos, workshops, guides, calculators and downloadable documentation.
- Digital badging to aid accreditation with badges being created for the scheme to be delivered on completion of individual elements of Great Start.
- Working on producing first version of content in a PDF format and deliver in early 2024



We Rise

- Youth-led movement that is intended to engage young people from communities not typically engaging in skills / career development and / or with lower aspirations.
- The program is intended to engage young people to identify the skills / training / mentoring / employability support they want to see in their place and then for ECC and partners to facilitate.
- Work initially focused on Canvey Island however we are now pushing the boundaries out to also include Basildon and communities in between.
- Arranging mentoring to the young people with Ford, Microsoft and Police
- We are working on rolling out free introduction to coding for these young people as a green skill



Focus for 2024

- Reviewing our visions, objectives and our KPI's
- Collaborate with other SiG's to ensure the embedding of the Just Transition for Essex Businesses and Residents to maximise the Green Economic Benefit

