



Essex Climate Action Commission
Powering positive change

Special Interest Group Updates to ECAC

September 12th, 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 County Council Biodiversity Duty

- This means that, as a public authority, ECC must:
 - Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
 - Agree policies and specific objectives based on our **consideration**.
 - Act to deliver our policies and achieve your objectives.
- Local authorities and LPAs must publish a **biodiversity report**
Programme
- The ECC “Consideration” produced by Jan 2024
- The full Biodiversity Report produced by Jan 2026
- The Report will be focussed on
ECC land biodiversity opportunities,
Biodiversity Comms and messages to public and partners
Biodiversity policies in all the functional areas from Highway to Parks





Wilder Blackwater Landscape Recovery Scheme bid (CFA)

- Partners: Essex Wildlife Trust, RSPB, National Trust & ECC
- Include 1,600 hectares of protected land and large areas of private farmland
- Bid for 2 development period (24-26)
- Sets out a 20 year + Implementation period (2046+)
- Bid capped at £750,000 for 2 years
- ECC proposed as the Single Legal Entity for development period
- Bid Deadline 21st September 2023





Land Use & Green infrastructure Update

- ECC Green Infrastructure Standards won the Building with Nature accreditation 2023
- ECC Green Infrastructure Standards launched 16.8.23
- 3 further ECC sites being considered for BNG
- ECC Water Strategy: First draft due in October 2023 (data may be subject to change)
- Green Gains Live in Billericay: celebrated biodiversity summit, brought together over 100 landowners, corporate leaders, biodiversity experts, and public bodies with a common goal: to reverse the decline of the UK's natural environment





Energy and Waste





Renewable energy + Retrofit

- Local energy and Communities: working with Community Energy South to deliver CommuniPower - a “whole village” approach to decarbonising heat and power
 - Local Energy Advice Demonstrator – successful £1m bid to DESNZ to fund local energy champions in 3 locations
 - Developing bid to National Lottery – Energy and Climate action fund
- Retrofit: Home Upgrade Grant which runs to March 2025 – funding allocation of £18.7m for Essex to deliver retrofit measures in low income households. Expected to go live end Sept
- Retrofit: Working with Districts to agree mechanism for administering OFGEM Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 funding. To unlock £20-40 million in energy efficiency grants for low income households





Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Local energy: Innovate UK – “Pathfinder Places” fund:
 - EssNet – removing multiple non-technical barriers to net zero. (e.g. access to finance, data, capacity of stakeholders, public sector processes.) Phase 1 feasibility completed, now bidding for £3m in phase 2
 - Shift to Net Zero – scaling up investment in getting our schools to net zero. Bid for £3.4 million for phase 2 submitted.
- OFGEM Strategic Innovation Fund - Project “SHIELD” – low cost heat and power for low income households. 3 month feasibility work completed, UKPN submitted £0.5m Alpha bid to pilot technology. If successful will lead to Beta bid for £10m+ to fund roll-out.

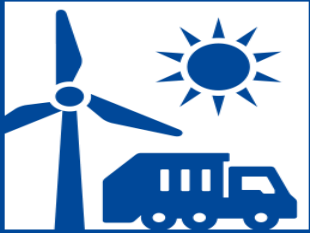




Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Community energy: Support to community groups extended to March 26, to include:
 - Supporting the set up of 4 new community energy groups, at least one in a levelling area
 - Developing 4 community-led local area energy plans in Levelling Up areas, and a project pipeline of local energy investment opportunities in those areas
 - Expanding the pipeline of community energy opportunities through engaging with an additional 20 community groups – parishes, existing advocacy groups and local community leaders.
- Solar Installations
 - £5.85 million community fund from Longfield Solar Farm confirmed following Sec of States decision on planning application
 - £50K grant from Net Zero Hub to begin process of assessing feasibility of installing solar at park and ride sites (will look at a range of options including solar canopies)
 - Updating financial models to reassess solar farms on ECC land at two locations, with support from Net Zero Hub





Waste – to follow





Built Environment



Built Environment

New build

Net Zero Carbon New Homes



Graham Thomas - Head of Planning and Sustainable Development



Objective - Net Zero New Homes by 2025

Consistent
Policy

Policy formation is based on evidence we have made really good progress now on two critically important areas of work. These being:

- Development Viability - Three Dragons report published [Report \(essexdesignguide.co.uk\)](https://essexdesignguide.co.uk)
- Clarifying the legal position – KC Advice published (May 2023) [essex-open-legal-advice-energy-policy-and-building-regulations.pdf \(essexdesignguide.co.uk\)](https://essex-open-legal-advice-energy-policy-and-building-regulations.pdf)

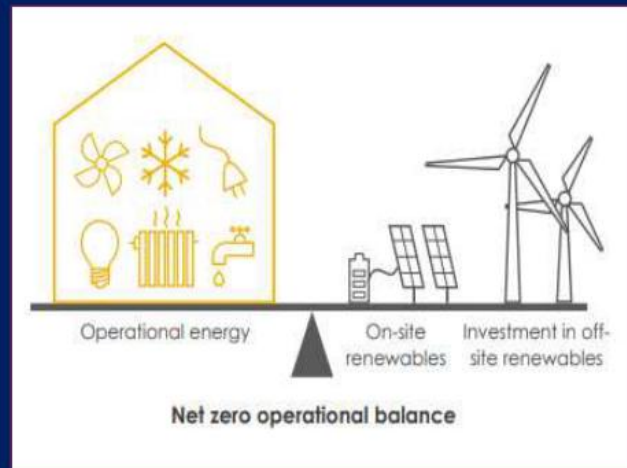


Objective - Net Zero New Homes by 2025

Consistent
Policy

Net Zero Policy Study – Introba report published (July 2023)

Essex Net Zero Policy Study | Essex Design Guide



Essex Climate Action Commission
Powering positive change



Net Zero Homes – Stamp Duty Exemption

The
Customer

The focus has been on launching the campaign to influence the chancellor to exempt Stamp Duty on all Net Zero new build homes.

Activity Includes:

- **Letters – Submitted to the Chancellor** – All 15 Essex local authorities have been asked to write to the Chancellor.
 - **Secured support at the regional level** from the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) who have this as one of their key priorities to influence Government on.
 - **Working with ECAC Built Environment Commissioners to raise the profile at the national level.**
- Presented at the PCAN conference on 19 June 2023 – follow-up article is being written to generate national support.



Next Steps (2023/24)

- **Net Zero House Blueprint** – a costed specification - materials and technologies needed to create a net zero carbon dwelling – this is part one of a staged **commissioned** to understand the delivery of net zero carbon dwellings
- **Embodied carbon model policy Study** – to develop the evidence base to **for local plans (looking to the 2030 objective)**



- **Essex Developers Guide** – additional guide on the design and aesthetics of net zero carbon dwellings including designing in battery storage , air source & ground source heat pumps and infrastructure. (Innovation)



Transport





Sustainable Transport

EV

- On street residential chargepoint (~60 chargers) contract awarded to Qwello
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charger strategy public consultation complete
 - 700 + responses, 75% support the vision and six objectives
 - 46% of which had access to EV, with further 23% likely to switch within the next 3 years
 - No surprises about reason for not switching or what is important to residents.
- Local EV Infrastructure Fund £500K revenue awarded (3 job offers made), tranche 2 capital
- Escooter tender being evaluated – expected to award this week

Cycling

- Cycling Strategy being refreshed
- Tranche 1 (3/12 districts) Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure consultation open
- Jaywick to Clacton route dedicated ATE webinar

School Streets

- Strategy commissioned via Jacobs
- Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) Healthy School Streets schemes –detailed design to commence later this month

Active Travel

- Exploring new engagement platform used by Oxfordshire, Cornwall and Kent.

Major projects

- Army & Navy still awaiting funding decision from Central Government (Oct 22....)
- Beaulieu Park railway station and Chelmsford NE bypass contracts agreed. Beaulieu will be the first new station on the Great Eastern Line for 100+ years, and should be complete by 2025

Community Rail

- 5 event trains run this summer (Music, Heritage and Bucket & Spade) with nearly 500 passengers enjoying sustainable trips

qwello

POWERING THE FUTURE

qwello.uk





Why is an Air Quality Strategy needed for Essex?

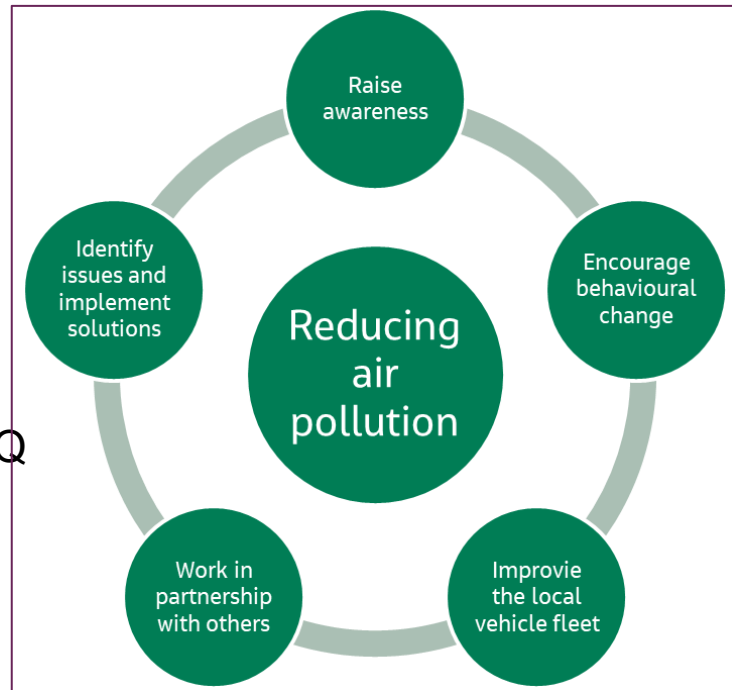
- Environment Act 2021 introduced specific requirements for county councils to develop measures to improve AQ in AQMAs
- NO₂ (current AQ issue, in hotspots) heavily influenced by road traffic emissions, which can be more readily influenced by ECC than district/borough councils
- PM_{2.5} (future AQ issue, more widely) is a regional pollutant influenced by lots of different sources over a wider area
- Future UK air quality policy will seek co-ordinated action on PM_{2.5} at 'regional' level
- AQ has a significant impact on the health of the people of Essex





Scope of Air Quality Strategy

- Set vision, aims and objectives
- Provide background information on air quality
- Define current AQ baseline in Essex (post-COVID)
- Identify and prioritise areas of concern
- Highlight activities/projects/strategies relevant to AQ
- Consider future trends in air quality
- Highlight options to improve air quality
- Describe what actions will be taken
- Set out how progress will be measured





Latest progress and next steps

Latest progress and next steps

- Draft strategy updated to widen beyond transport and provide greater focus on the impacts of poor AQ on health (the strategy will also be rebranded to ECC)
- Updated strategy will be reviewed internally this month
- Public consultation on the strategy then expected to start in late October/November (TBC)
- Consultation will demonstrate partners and the public have had an opportunity to comment on the strategy and also raise awareness of the issue of AQ

Essex
Highways

Essex Air Quality Strategy

First Draft
February 2023





Community Engagement



Events

June:

- [Green Skills Summit \(08/06\)](#)
- [Manningtree Earth Festival \(11/06\)](#)
- Workforce Development team day event (16/06)
- [Moving Out of Silos event \(19/06\)](#)
- [Essex Secondary School Science Festival \(23/06\)](#)
- [Great Bentley Carnival \(24/06\)](#)
- [Essex Schools Food and Farming Day \(28/06\)](#)
- [Stansted Annual Business Show \(29/06\)](#)

July:

- [Tendring Show \(08/07\)](#)
- [Let's Talk Trash \(18/07\)](#)

August:

- [Chelmsford Green City \(26/08\)](#)

September:

- [Colchester Eco Festival \(02/09\)](#)
- [ARU Housing event \(05/09\)](#)
- [Festival of Business \(05/09\)](#)
- No Waste Walden library event (16/09)
- [East of England net zero event \(20/09\)](#)
- [Building Business For Your Future Fair \(21/09\)](#)
- [RCCE Webinar Village Hall's Conference \(23/09\)](#)

October:

- Launch of Early Years Advice Pack (05/09)
- [Climate Awareness Train \(08/10\)](#)
- [East Anglian Coast and Estuaries Conference \(12/10\)](#)
- CPD for school settings (12/10)
- [Design for Planet Festival \(17-18/10\)](#)
- Dengie Climate Action Partnership launch (19/10)
- [Healthy Schools Festival \(19/10\)](#)
- Autumn Climate Conference (31/10)

November:

- [Learnfest](#)

Climate Czar visits

- Consciously Clothed, Colchester (21/06)
- Colcheco, Colchester (21/06)
- Food and Farming Day, Writtle University (28/06)
- Green Gains Live, Billericay (06/07)
- Writtle Sunflowers (08/08)
- Chelmsford, Basildon, Pitsea and Rayleigh Waste Transfer Station & Recycling Centres (16/08)
- Wilderness Foundation, Chelmsford (25/08)



Projects

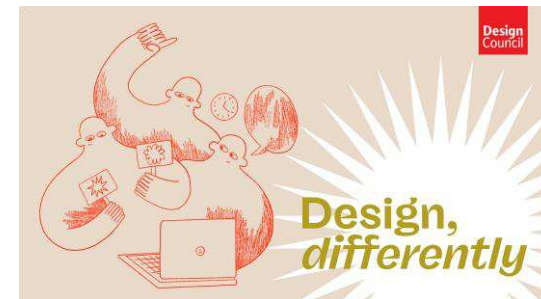
- The Essex Climate Focus Area
- Local Climate Engagement Programme
- Design, Differently
- The Essex Green Infrastructure Standards video
- Arts and Culture & Climate Action film



**Essex Climate
Focus Area**



Working together
to achieve net zero



Essex
County
Council



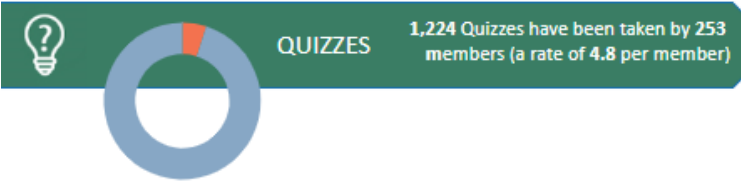
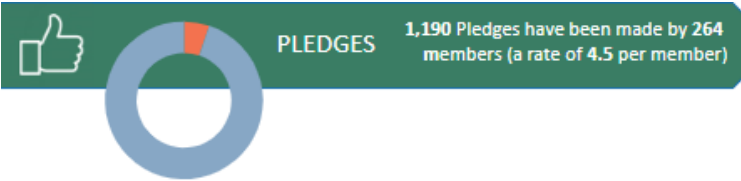
Building
with Nature

Essex Green Infrastructure Principles and Standards

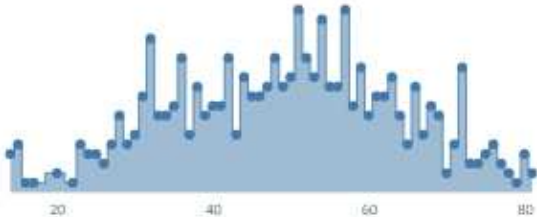
Better Policies and Development
for Better Place Making and Place Keeping

Carbon Cutting Essex

- Over 500 registrations



- Registrations by postcode:



Just Transition to a Green Economy

September 2023



Green Entrepreneurs Programme



- The programme ran for 6 weeks during July and August run by ART Clubbers.
- We had 8 budding and existing entrepreneurs sign up for the programme.
- 3 Entrepreneurs pitched for seed funding and have won £5k each.
- Elias Watson – Essex Chestnut Co-operative (Agroforestry and Chestnut Orchards)
- Jake Wing – Acuro Group Ltd (Sustainable loft boarding and insulation)
- George Booth – Bee Homes (Retrofit startup)
- We will be holding an Event shortly to showcase the winners and for marketing purposes.

“You don't have to be great to start but you have to start to be great”

Great Start

- A Green business support and accreditation scheme
- Taking the work and advice from the business support pack and turning that into accessible business support in real time
- An offer that is able to support businesses in any sector
- Pilot focus is looking and establishing business Carbon Footprints and waste minimisation
- Conversations now being had to discuss utilising Cutting Carbon Essex App as engagement tool
- Pilot will launch Jan 2024 in Braintree and Uttlesford, taking an agile approach and will test learn and iterate from the Pilot ahead of roll out to wider geographical Essex and business support themes

We Rise

- We have a core group of 4 young people who working with a consultant who have developed the branding and the name.
- Young people are currently running two social media pages on Instagram and Facebook
- World Café which was facilitated by the young people who conducted conversations with other young people around their concerns and challenges in regards to Employability and Skills, Well Being, Personal Safety and the Environment they live in. Attended by 27 young people who all signed up to We Rise
- In August we had a careers fair in conjunction with Yellow Door who are Canvey based Youth Club/Charity, a further 3 young people signed up to We Rise
- Our core group are going to write some blogs for social media on a range of issues
- We are beginning the matching up of young people with business mentors, including input from local businesses, C2C Rail, Microsoft and Legal and General
- After evaluating the World Café we have identified areas of need and we looking to have another event in October half term around employability which will be lead by Pathways CTM and going to produce some films around employability and skills including green skills and wellbeing in work film and will be making a local film on employment on Canvey, we are hoping these will be hosted on the Essex Opportunities Portal as we create a We Rise page to host videos and sign up page.