



Essex Climate Action Commission
Powering positive change

Special Interest Group Updates to ECAC

March 7th 2023



Essex County Council



Land Use and Green Infrastructure





Climate Focus Area Communications Strategy

February 2023 Draft v2



Aims/Objectives

Key Message

The Climate Focus Area (CFA) is a pilot for accelerated climate action, leading the way for the rest of the UK by showcasing best practice in sustainable land stewardship, in collaboration with local councils, charities, residents, landowners and businesses.

Priority Audiences

Secondary Audiences

Primary Activity

Milestones





“Involve” Consultation to create Parish Nature Plans

Creating a Nature Plan for CFA Parishes

Essex County Council (ECC) is working with the Essex Climate Action Commission which has recommended creating the Essex Climate Focus Area (CFA) in the river catchments of the Rivers Blackwater and Colne. Following a stakeholder exercise with almost 40 parishes, communities, businesses, environmental charities and government agencies, three parishes had a similar ambition: to create a **Nature Plan** for their Parish. The parishes were Stisted, Tiptree and Wivenhoe.

The Nature Plan will be designed by the participants and could identify the best nature areas that already exist and other areas where nature could be improved. These could be woods, hedges, scrubland, meadows, marshes lakes, ponds rivers and streams.

We are holding Nature Plan days for the 3 Parishes on Sats/ Suns in May 2023

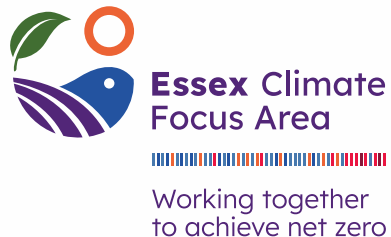
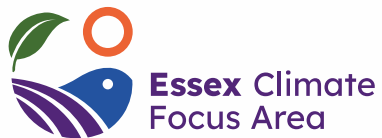




CFA Draft Identity

Essex Climate Focus Area

Logo versions: Landscape / Stacked / Symbol only / With strapline





Piloting BNG on ECC land – Reasons for piloting

- To be prepared prior to BNG commencing in November 2023 – These will be test sites for ECC and the LPAs to work out the practical BNG challenges prior to the go live date
- Early Adopters are likely to benefit from quicker sale of BNG units and higher BNG Unit prices - there will be a high demand for BNG sites in 2023 and it is likely a buoyant market will develop to provide these credits to those that need to deliver BNG sites
- BNG sites will be required across the 12 Essex LPAs. The more remote a BNG site is from the development, the more costly it will be for the developer to deliver. This will almost certainly lead to BNG sites being developed in all 12 Local Planning Authority Areas.
- The provision of sites suitable for local BNG is crucial to enabling development and will be crucial for supporting growth in Essex.
- Two ECC owned sites have been identified that have the potential to provide BNG





Piloting BNG on ECC land – financial and environmental benefits

- Investment is made in years 1 and 2, both projects are cumulatively cash positive & financially self-sustaining from year 3 onwards
- The investment will create two new and better nature areas or 17 ha
- Helping achieve one of the recommendations of the “Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral” Report: 30% of all land in Essex will enhance biodiversity and the natural environment by creating Natural Green Infrastructure
- Act as pathfinders for all BNG land providers in Essex, exemplifying that this new tool can deliver biodiversity effectively and in a financially sustainable way
- Reduce flooding by absorbing surface water, improve water quality by allowing water to be filtrated through the soil & replenish the below ground water table





Energy and Waste





Renewable Energy

- Solar Together Essex
 - ST 2022: 545 installations to date – expect over 600 by end of scheme
 - ST 2023 – auction complete, x2 installers to manage demand – 5,712 registrations to date
- Community energy:
 - Extending our support to community groups to March 24
 - Strong pipeline of community led local energy projects
 - E.g. Tollesbury Climate Partnership – community led whole school retrofit and solar system – Government grant funding + Community share offer
- Community Climate Action Challenge fund - £500,000 fund now fully allocated - awards to 41 organisations for community led climate action initiatives
- £5.85 million community fund from Longfield Solar Farm – currently in planning application, Secretary of State decision July





Renewable Energy

- Community Energy Pathways Project
 - National recognition - Community Energy England awards in x2 categories – scaling up community energy + Local Authority partnership working
 - support to community energy groups being extended to March 24
- Innovate UK – “Pioneering Places” fund – successful in both of our bids
 - Essex Net Zero - community led investment in solar and storage at scale
 - Shift to Net Zero – scaling up investment in getting our schools to net zero
 - Qualifies us for subsequent round of funding
- Innovate UK – “Fast Followers” fund – supporting bid from Rochford DC
 - Local Community energy project – Schools as Renewable Energy “power plants” + local retrofit local homes





Renewable energy + Retrofit

- CommuniPower - “whole village” decarbonising heat and power – exploring 5 clusters in Essex working with Community Energy South and DESNZ
- Bid to next round of Home Upgrade Grant which runs 2023-2025 successful – funding allocation to be confirmed – expected to be c.£25m over 2 years
- Working with Districts to access Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 funding – energy efficiency grants for low income households
- Project SHIELD – low cost heat and power for low income households – bid to Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund submitted – outcome pending





Built Environment





New Schools

All New Schools
commissioned to be
Carbon Zero by 2022

All New Schools commissioned to be Carbon Zero by 2022

Target Achieved - 2022

All new schools commissioned from late 2022 will be Net Zero carbon in operation.

Next steps: - embodied carbon and Net Zero plus.



All New Homes Consented to be Carbon Zero by 2025

- **Target unlikely to be met.**

- However, good progress has been made and with some developers. For some Districts, we will not be far off meeting this target date. We have also started an major influencing piece of work.

- **Viability** – Net Zero Operational Carbon housing is viable in Essex and will cost a fraction more than Governments Future Homes Standard.

- **Legality** – It is also clear that Councils can exceed the Building Regulations to require Net Zero Carbon homes.

- **Passivhaus** style NZ homes are far more efficient and effective than Governments Future Homes Standard.

- **Fiscal Measures** - Stamp Duty Exemption on NZ carbon new homes

New Homes

All New Homes
Consented to be
Carbon Zero by 2025



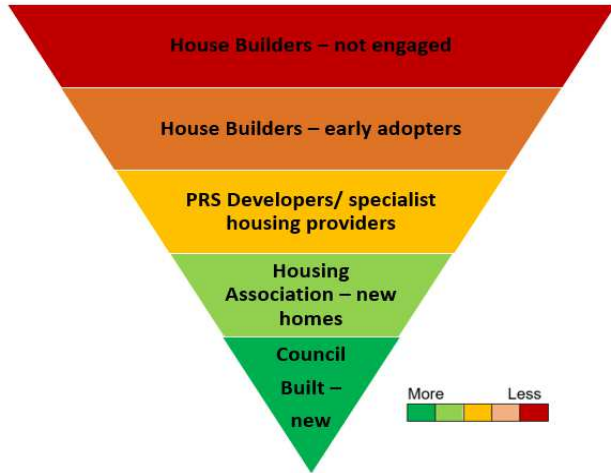
**Net Zero Carbon
New Homes
New build**

Providing choice for and informing the Customer



- **System Leadership – demonstrator projects**

New Build Power of influence/ aligned interest

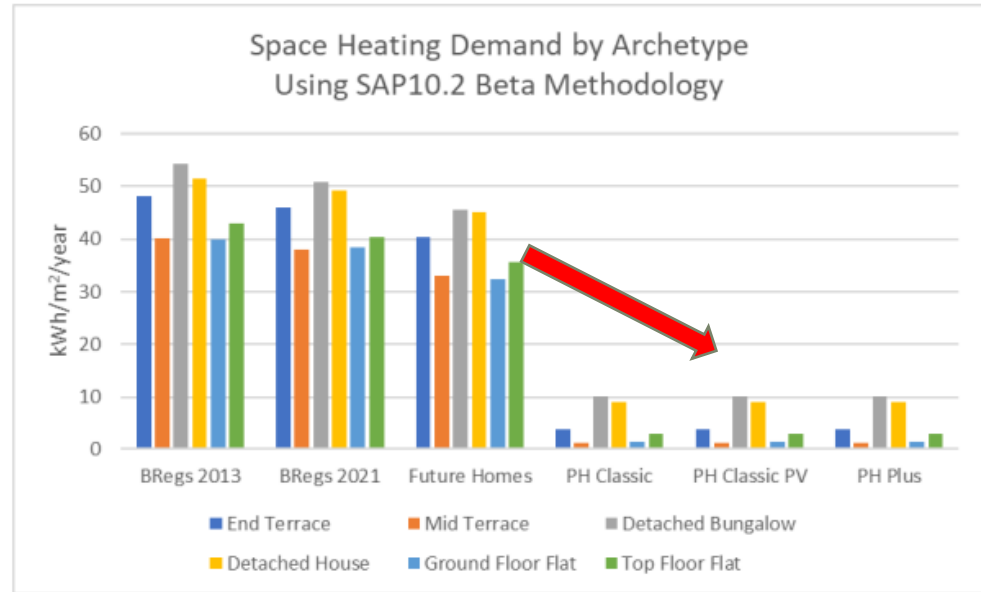


- **Net Zero Show Homes**
- Demonstrator projects with Homes England and Housing Associations
- **What Buyers Want research – Green Homes**

Why go beyond the Building Regulations?

- Building to Passivhaus fabric standards **reduces space heating energy demand by over 70%**
- **Costs are marginal** to move from Future Homes Standard to recommended Passive House type approach.

Figure 9.6 Space heating demand by archetypes using SAP 10.2 method





Transport





Sustainable Transport

Active Travel

- £1M allocation for behaviour change and capacity building – includes mini-conference for Members
- Active Travel Fund (ATF) 4 submitted in February – 19 routes: 13 design and 6 delivery

Cycling

- Cycling Strategy being refreshed – due for consultation in May / June
- LCWIPs begun for Witham & Brentwood and refresh underway for Braintree, Chelmsford & Colchester
- Construction of the Jaywick to Clacton route underway – see next slide

School Streets

- Phase 1 implemented in Sawyers Hall Lane (Brentwood), Winstree Road (Colchester) and Gilchrist Way and Lancaster Way (Braintree)
- Phase 2 bids submitted as part of ATF4

EV

- Draft electric vehicle strategic developed: “Right Charger, Right Place”
- Mitie have produced proposals for electric vehicle charge points at ECC properties: 80 needed by 2030
- Office of Zero Emission Vehicle bid for On Street Residential Chargepoints submitted – will go out to tender for operator in April / May

Policy

- Development of Local Transport Plan 4 (key statutory transport document) underway. Four themes: Decarbonisation, Supporting People: Health, Wellbeing & Independence, Creating Sustainable Places and Communities and Connecting People, Places and Businesses
- Development of new road user hierarchy – Place & Movement matrix being developed.

Passenger Transport

- Consulting on Chelmer Valley Park & Ride expansion
- DigiGo delivering 600+ passengers per week





Jaywick to Clacton cycle route





Community Engagement





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Events and visits

Great Clacton School (11/11)

EA Sustain event (14-15/01)

Great Bentley Primary School (23/01)

RCCE Webinar (26/01)



Ambitious Essex Innovation
Summit (27/01)

East London Biogas visit (21/02)

Go Green Uttlesford (06/03)



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Climate Action Challenge Fund



89

applications
received



41

applications
approved



£500,000

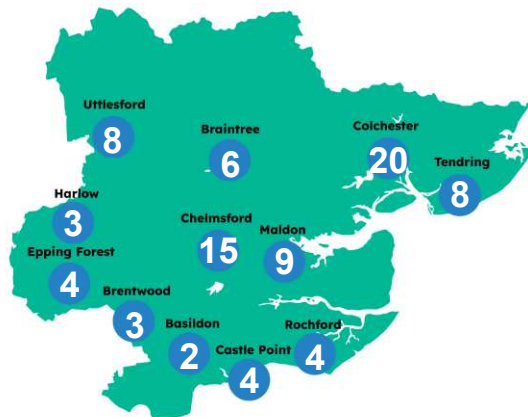
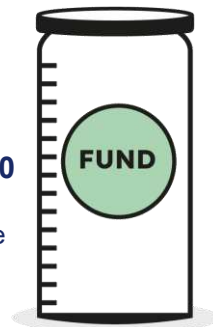
Awarded to date



£1,187,902

Total amount
requested

£0
out of
£500,000
still
available



Application regional
breakdown

Applicant type breakdown



Community
group

7



Registered
charity

35



CIC or Social
Enterprise

12



Parish
Council

11



School

20



Other

4



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- ECC successfully bid to join Involve's project group for their Local Engagement Programme
- The Project is seeing ECC work with Involve and three local parish councils, all of which sit in the Climate Focus Area, Stisted, Tiptree and Wivenhoe.
- The purpose of the project is for each parish to have a community powered Local Nature Plan.
- This will be kickstarted by resident workshops in May that will allow residents to voice their opinions and put forward recommendations their parish council.
- The parish councils will use these recommendations to influence their local nature plans.
- Involve will then create a toolkit for this process for the rest of the parish councils in the CFA to create their own plan.



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Carbon Literacy training

Carbon Literacy
Project



- Available to all ECC members and employees
- Provides understanding of what we can do to fight climate change both as an individual and in a group setting, with specific focus on Essex.
- Involves pledging to undertake new and significant actions
- Members of senior leadership at ECC have completed the training, including leader Cllr Kevin Bentley
- 500+ have registered so far
- 180+ accreditations earned



Essex County Council



A Just Transition for a Green Economy



Green Entrepreneurs Programme

Overview of programme

- Deliver a short enterprise programme to 30 individuals with green entrepreneurial aspirations and ideas (aged 18 to 30) – leading to supporting 30 green start-ups in Essex and hone the knowledge, skills, attributes and values for the future workforce
- Provide insight into green sector industries, for those with an avid interest in climate change and green economy
- Broaden participants understanding of the world of being a business owner
- Develop professional networks, tackles career sector diversity and builds fusion/transferable skills
- Opportunity to pitch for £5k of seed funding (£25k in the winners pot) – 5 winners
- All activity will be digitally badged to allow us to track deliverables

Progress and Next Steps

- Project plan developed
- Onboarding and recruiting mentors
- Digital badging company procured
- Marketing agency assigned to help with the campaign and design marketing assets to recruit learners
- Live recruitment from late March
- Delivery to be completed by Summer 23
- Continued evaluation and monitoring of KPI's post programme also being established

Essex Heroes – Youth Movement

Overview of Programme

“A youth movement to promote economic growth including career and skills opportunities from peer to peer”

- Taking the learning and evidence from Shujaaz, the project is about creating a social movement – engaging young people, through young people to inspire them to create opportunities for themselves.
- The youth movement will raise young people's (16-25) awareness of green issues and career opportunities.
- Build young people's employability skills, through youth action projects and social networking
- Encourage & grow green skills and career interest amongst young people – capitalising on young people's awareness and passion for developing a more sustainable future.

Progress and Next Steps

- This movement is being led through colleagues within ECC Skills team, working closely with Green growth. ECC skills supporting with resource and £30k of funding
- The project will launch in Canvey Island as the pilot locality
- Engaging with a group of enthusiastic young people who will help to co-design the movement including its “name” and “brand” this will create a sense of ownership
- Young people need to own the movement and believe in its impact before moving too....
-promoting green growth opportunities and creating a “buzz” around our green sectors
- All engagement will be digitally badged to allow us to track deliverables
- Working is ongoing with the social media platforms with our internal GenZ and Digital Inclusion team to ensure the movement is current and relevant

Overview of Programme

Programme to encourage businesses to make small changes to aid transition

Supporting business awareness and engagement

Communicate ways that organisations could make small changes to the environment:

✓ low energy lighting, switching off equipment and lights when not required i.e. overnight

✓ waste recycling: paper, card, plastic, crisp packets, plastic bags, tin foil, ink jet cartridges

✓ removing single use plastic from canteens i.e. bamboo cutlery, recycled cardboard food containers

✓ electric charging points, electric car option for lease schemes, green travel plans, car sharing etc

3 tiered approach, mirroring the Working Well accreditation providing opportunities to accredit those at the start of their Green Transition and those further down the road to Net Zero

Progress and Next Steps

- Working with Provide, Essex Climate Action Commissioners and workplaces to design the Essex Green Charter / Accreditation
- Provide already offer the workplace wellbeing Accreditation Award scheme – looking to utilise this as the basis for this scheme.
- We are now working with businesses, providers and with our district and borough colleagues to establish:
 - What businesses and providers are already doing – drawing on the expertise of others – utilising ideas.
 - Whether they could do more – supporting one another in peer to peer support – signposting to the excellent resources produced by the Essex Climate Action Commission
 - What are the common KPI's what do businesses want to achieve?
 - What others could offer to incentivise these small environmental changes?
- We aim to launch Great Start with a number of small businesses and providers to build momentum and bring this to market – soft launch in Braintree
- To grow Great Start so that it becomes a movement amongst the Essex community
- Watch this space, the movement is coming!