



Essex Climate Action Commission  
**Powering positive change**

# Special Interest Group Updates to ECAC

June 6th 2023



Essex County Council

# Updates

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





# Land Use and Green Infrastructure





# Land Use & Green Infrastructure Today's Agenda

1. Local Nature Partnership & Local Nature Recovery Strategy
2. Essex Net Zero Innovation Futures
3. ECC Biodiversity Net Gain Pilot projects

*The LU&GI Recommendations are to create 30% Natural Green Infrastructure and 100% Sustainable farming across Essex by 2040 and 2050 respectfully. This might thought to be impossible by doubters, but.....*

*“Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary....Impossible is nothing.”*

*Muhammed Ali*





# Climate Focus Area

- Three Parish Nature Plan consultations were carried out in May Weekends at Wivenhoe. Stisted and Tiptree attended by 70 local people
- The North Essex Farm Cluster formally constituted as a Community Interest Company
- A second Farm Cluster is being developed in the Tendring area of the CFA, which covers approximately 50 farms
- The Community-driven CFA Knowledge Hub is up and running
- The CFA Comms Strategy is formally approved and the first CFA press releases went out for a “soft launch” of the CFA





# Essex County Council Tree Management Plan

- The ECC Tree Management Plan was approved by Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- The Tree Plan **Vision** is, “**That the Essex County Council will lead the way on creating 30% Natural Green Infrastructure by protecting and increasing the tree stock on the Essex County Council estate**”
- **Objectives** are twofold:
  - 1) To protect and manage the health and safety of the existing trees so they meet their multiple benefits
  - 2) To increase the number of new trees in the ECC estate to maximise the canopy cover and multiple benefits the trees provide.
- 31 Tree Statements to guide the implementation of the Tree Management Plan which will be approved soon





# Essex Forest Initiative 2022-23

- Total number of trees planted in 2022/23 = **98,501**
- Total hedgerows length = 13,803 metres
- Total number of trees planted in 2021/22 = 104,444
- Total number of trees planted in 2020/21 = 38,615
- **Total number of EFI trees planted in 2020/23 = 241,560**





# Energy and Waste







## Renewable energy + Retrofit

- Local energy and Communities: CommuniPower - “whole village” decarbonising heat and power –
  - have submitted £1m bid to DESNZ for Local Energy Advice Demonstrator to progress x5 clusters in Essex
  - Developing bid to National Lottery – Energy and Climate action fund
- Retrofit: Home Upgrade Grant which runs to March 2025 – funding allocation of £25m for Essex now confirmed – in mobilisation - grant funding for retrofit measures in low income households
- Retrofit: Working with Districts to access OFGEM Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 funding – energy efficiency grants for low income households





## Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Local energy: 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
- Local energy: Innovate UK – “Fast Followers” fund – supporting bid from Rochford DC
  - Local Community energy project – Schools as Renewable Energy “power plants” + local retrofit local homes
- OFGEM Strategic Innovation Fund - Project “SHIELD” – low cost heat and power for low income households – bid successful, developing bid for next stage





## Renewable Energy + Retrofit

- Community energy:
  - Support to community groups extended to March 24
  - Strong pipeline of community led local energy projects including solar farm, solar on commercial units, community solar and storage, and retrofit
  - E.g. Tollesbury Climate Partnership – community led whole school retrofit and solar system – have met their £200k Community share offer to supplement £450k government grant
- £5.85 million community fund from Longfield Solar Farm – currently in planning application, Secretary of State decision July
- Solar Together Essex
  - Schemes to date ST: 1490 installations – 1200 tonnes CO2e avoided p.a.
  - ST 2023 year to date – 1,088 acceptants; 152 installations done; expect c700





# Waste





## Waste Strategy for Essex

- Shared vision for Essex waste
- World leading performance standards
- Public consultation Autumn 2023

### Strategy Priorities

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





## Project Highlight Summary

### Food Waste:

- Treatment by Anaerobic Digestion to produce renewable energy and fertiliser.
- Long term contracts signed April 2023 securing future treatment need.
- New collection services being rolled out

### Waste Reuse:

- Extended and enhanced reuse opportunities via recycling centres.
- Partnership established with Lighthouse Project to reuse and repair items.
- Analysis underway ahead of whole system roll-out in 2023/24





## Project Highlight Summary

### Kerbside Recycling Services:

- Comprehensive service reviews taking place (or in delivery phase) across 40% of the County.
- Service changes focussed on increasing range of materials captured for recycling and service access.
- Trials underway for increased recycling of flexible plastic & electricals

### Influencing Behaviour & Education:

- Food waste project being launched Countywide in July 2023 – focussed on reduction and increased use of recycling services
- Behaviour change innovation research programme





# Built Environment





# Built Environment

## New build

### Net Zero Carbon New Homes



Graham Thomas - Head of Planning and Sustainable Development

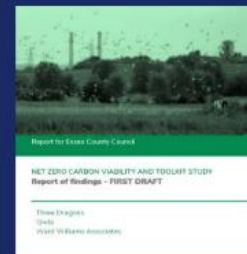


# Objective - Net Zero New Homes by 2025

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 completed  
[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://essexdesignguide.co.uk/essex-open-legal-advice-energy-policy-and-building-regulations.pdf)



# Net Zero Homes – Stamp Duty Exemption

The  
Customer

The focus has been on launching a campaign to influence the chancellor to exempt Stamp Duty on 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.**





# Transport





## Sustainable Transport

### Active Travel

- Active Travel Fund (ATF) 4 - awarded £5.2M for construction of 1 major route (Harlow 9), 1 crossing, 4 healthy school streets and 4 Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure routes.
- Disappointment as ATF2 transformational route paused

### Cycling

- Cycling Strategy being refreshed – due for consultation in May / June
- RideLondon Essex Year 2 – “Safer Greener Healthier” ecargo bikes
- Essex Pedal Power Chris Boardman visit and expansion into Basildon

### EV

- Draft EV charger strategy: “Right Charger, Right Place” – public consultation on Clean Air Day
- Local EV Infrastructure Fund (LEVI) expression of interest submitted

### Passenger Transport

- £4.8m Bus Service Improvement Plan new funding announced. Awaiting grant conditions but for new and improved services.
- First District Enhanced Partnership will be Tending - just starting
- Local Bus Strategy 2024 - 2028 agreed by Cabinet and out for consultation in the summer

### School Streets

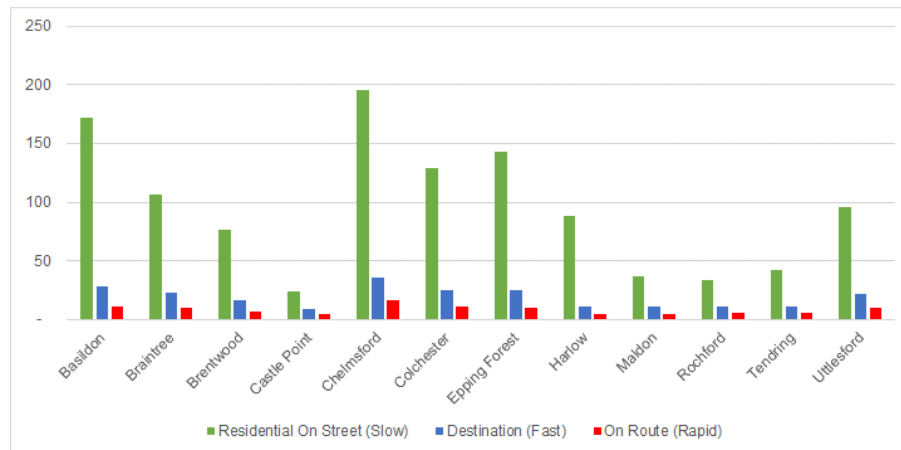
- HomeRun (car sharing) pilot with Stebbing and Tending Primary Schools going well





## EV chargepoint strategy

- By 2030, there expected to be 220,000 BEVs in Essex, needed 6,000 public charge points by 2030. We currently have 300.
- Phase 1 short term strategy up to 2025 to help plan for rapidly evolving EV landscape
- Bottom-line is 'Right Charger, Right place' focusing on 6 objectives
- Strategy won't install multitude of charging points by itself
- Subsequent strategy phases will focus on other vehicles (buses etc.) and fuels (hydrogen)
- Electrifying the ECC employee and commercial fleet are separate projects



Indicative need for residential on-street, destination and on-route public infrastructure in Essex





## Strategy objectives



Social  
Equality

**Objective 1 Social Equality:** to deliver an **equitable** electric vehicle charging network that promotes **social justice** through an accessible, inclusively designed and fairly priced network to all residents.



Healthy  
Environment

**Objective 2 Healthy Environment:** to deliver a **healthy environment** for all by helping decarbonise the transport system, reducing emissions from transport and improving air quality.



Resilient  
& Safe

**Objective 3 Resilient and Safe Network:** to guide and promote a **resilient** and **safe** network with infrastructure that is reliable, accessible, safe, compatible, easy to use and represents good value for money at installation and use during its life.



Integrated

**Objective 4 Integrated Network:** to **integrate** EVs with sustainable transport and future mobility solutions to support a reduction in overall car use.



Connectivity  
and Essential  
Demand

**Objective 5 Connected Network Meeting Essential Demand:** better **connecting** individuals and organisations throughout Essex to support the uptake of electric vehicles **where car travel is necessary**.



Creating  
Better Places

**Objective 6 Creating Better Places:** **create better places** using infrastructure that is inclusive, sensitively placed, designed to complement our public spaces and minimises the impact on all members of society.



# Community Engagement





## Events & Awards



### Where we've been:

- Voices of Future Conference 12/04.
- Green Business Expo 20/04.
- Essex Green Weekend 28/04
- Annual Business Show Essex Partnerships 23/05

### Awards shortlisted for:

- **Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 8 June** - Community Involvement and Climate Response categories.
- **The MJ Awards 23 June** - Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category.
- **Attending Carbon Literate Organisation Awards 15 June** - Carbon Literacy Bronze award.

### Upcoming events:

- Spring into Business Expo – 08/06
- Green skills summit – 09/06
- Manningtree Earth Festival – 11/06
- Essex Secondary Science Festival – 23/06
- Great Bentley Carnival – 24/06
- Festival of Business – 05/09
- Design for Planet Festival – 16-18/10
- Net Zero Festival – 31/10
- ECC Autumn Climate Conference – 31/10

## Climate Focus Area

Covering over one third of Essex the Climate Focus Area (CFA) will allow Essex County Council to accelerate pilot projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

Communications surrounding the CFA include:

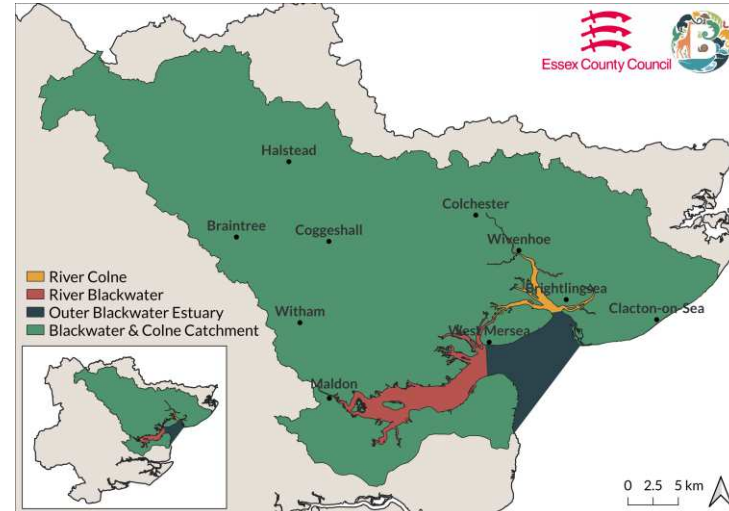
- The development of its own identity
- Coverage by local and national media
- Press releases
- Social media posts including multimedia (photos, videos etc.)
- Web and newsletter articles



## Essex Climate Focus Area



Working together  
to achieve net zero



## Local Climate Engagement Programme

- Stisted and Tiptree Parish Council and Wivenhoe Town Council were selected to work with ECC and Involve on a project that will see the creation of Local Nature Plans.
- This is one of the first projects to deliver the aims and objectives of the CFA.
- Residents from these areas attended a one-day workshop to decide how they feel their local environment should be treated.
- These recommendations will be presented to members of the local council. This will provide the basis for the council's Local Nature Plan.

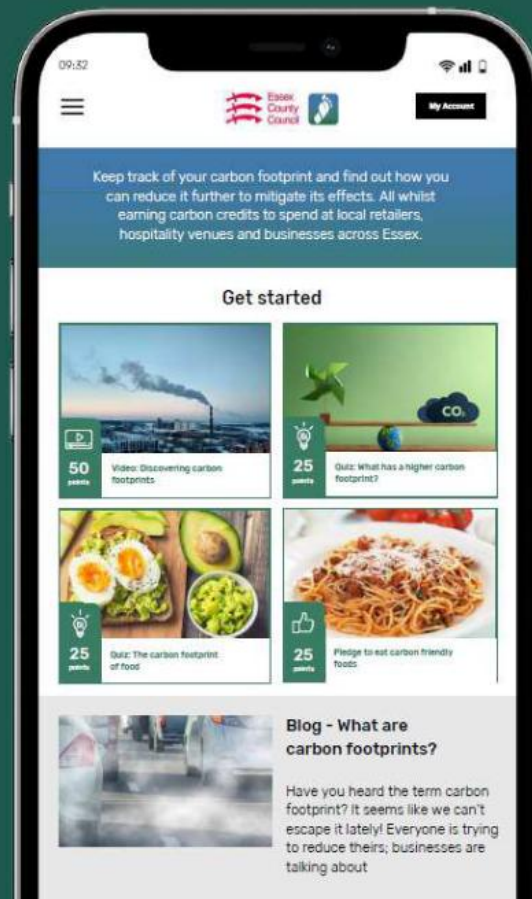


# Introducing Carbon Cutting Essex

A new digital platform and app dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and collaboration among businesses and local communities.

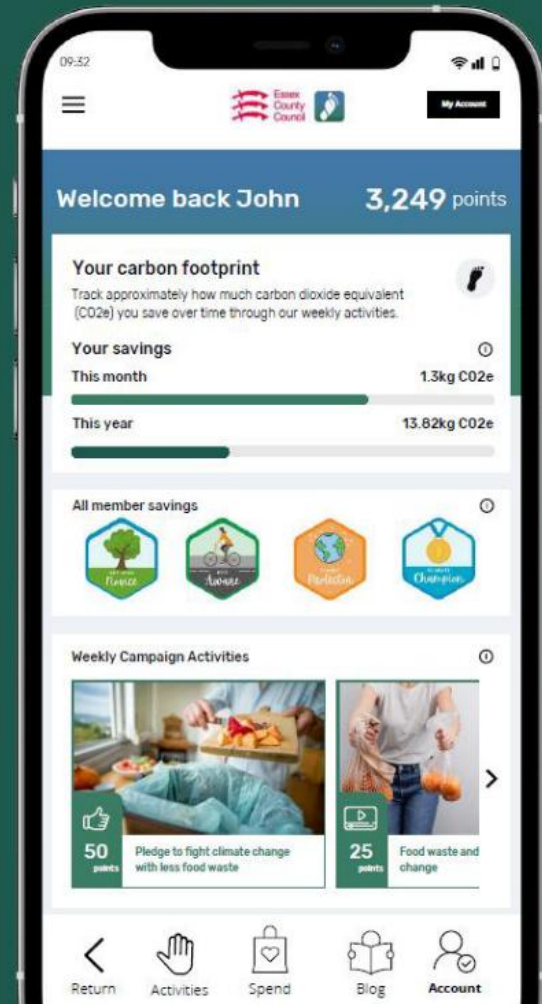


greenredeem



# An environmental platform and app that ...

1. Engage all audiences, not just the already committed
2. Helps people adopt and sustain new everyday green actions
3. Tracks carbon improvements and provides positive feedback
4. Rewards participation
5. Engage the community behind a common cause







# A Just Transition for a Green Economy

---



# Green Entrepreneurs Programme

- Supporting individuals age 18-30 with green start-ups in Essex and hone the knowledge, skills, attributes and values for the future workforce
- Delivery of an enterprise programme to 30 individuals with green entrepreneurial aspirations and ideas
- Opportunity for participants to pitch for £5k of seed funding (£25k in the winners pot) – 5 winners
- The goal at the end of the 6 week programme is that all will pitch their idea to a panel in a dragons den type way with a chance to win 1 of 5 £5k prizes for seed funding.
- We will champion the winners and track their progress with their ideas.
- The opportunity for all to maintain relationships with their mentors and tutors from the course can be done following completion.
- Digital Badging – we are working with a team at real ideas to write a digital badge for this programme. The Badges come from Badge Nation and are all about showing what individuals achieve outside of formal qualifications to champion skills experience and learning.



## Great Start

- Business Accreditation Scheme – Supporting Climate and Green Growth Ambitions of businesses
- Collective change for big impact
- Engagement meetings held with Lyn @ Provide to use same principle as Working Well accreditation
- A terms of reference has been drafted and shared with the project group
- Ian Barrett – ECC Place and Innovation Officer has done a great job in stakeholder engagement and gaining business insight into the best possible interventions and incentives to see the scheme thrive





## Great Start



- We have agreed on a 3 Tier System
- Braintree and Uttlesford Council – both of which have extensive appetite to launch the scheme in their respective areas
- Application process will be as automated as possible so that SME's are not deterred by extensive paperwork
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel quarterly
- Working up incentives for scheme

## Youth Movement

“

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

•

Clear we need to build a group and momentum to take this forward and create a movement

- Youth movement will be created by young people, for young people and will be a catalyst to drive this forward
- We have met a core group to date and will host a World Café event
- Young people engaged will receive training, mentorship and digital badges as part of the programme to support articulation of knowledge, skills, attributes and values they have demonstrated
- Once group established we will green the focus

# BECOME AN ESSEX HERO

Shape the new Essex  
Youth Movement



We are seeking

**A 16 TO 25-YEAR-  
OLD ON CANVEY  
ISLAND**

to brand a new youth  
movement and support  
young people across Essex

### THE ROLE

- Help young people shape their next steps
- Use social media to grow the movement
- Brand the movement and shape its activities
- No qualifications required
- Two hours per week

### THE BENEFITS

- Free access to a business mentor and professional social media training
- Transferable skills for a CV or university application
- Meet new people

Express your interest: [louise.fry@essex.gov.uk](mailto:louise.fry@essex.gov.uk)