



Essex Climate Action Commission

Terms of Reference

Background

The creation of an Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) was announced at Full Council in October 2019 by the (then) Leader of Essex County Council (ECC). It was originally agreed to run for two years with the following purpose:

- Year One: Identify ways in which Essex County Council (ECC) can mitigate the effects of climate change, improve air quality, reduce waste across Essex and increase the amount of green infrastructure and biodiversity in the county by drawing on in-house expertise, commissioning research and forming new external partnerships.
- Year Two: Explore how we attract investment in natural capital and low-carbon growth.

In February 2022, Cllr Kevin Bentley, the Leader of Essex County Council (ECC) agreed to extend the life of the Commission to May 2025.

Purpose

The purpose of the Commission to May 2025 is to monitor and drive implementation of the recommendations on the race to net zero across greater Essex by:

- Advising on priorities for direction in the focus areas of the Special Interest Groups;
- Reviewing and evaluating progress towards Net Zero;
- Supporting the adoption of climate positive policies and practices at all levels of local authorities in the region;
- Facilitating collective action across the county;
- Encouraging public engagement with residents, businesses, schools, communities, third sector organisations and other institutions of Essex.

Work plans for the Commission will be set out and agreed by the Commission for each year of activity. The work plan for 2023 is set out in Annex 2.

Timeline

The Commission will run to May 2025 to align with Essex County Council's current administration and could then be extended.



Essex Climate Action Commission

Membership

The membership of the Commission is set out in Annex 1.

Membership of the Commission is not expected to be static. New members may be invited to join the Commission to support the delivery of the best outcomes and recommendations. This will be in consultation with Commission Chair and Members, ECC's Director of Environment and Climate Action and agreed by ECC's Chief Executive and the Chair.

Quorum

Seven members, including the Chair, should be present, either physically or virtually (via an online meeting), for the Commission to sit.

Secretariat

The Commission will be supported by a Secretariat.

Meeting Frequency

The Commission will meet at least quarterly.

The Commission has special interest sub-groups that meet more regularly to explore specific themes/topics in more detail.

Meetings of the Commission should take place online, however the Commission may convene in Essex or London from time to time if there is a specific reason to do so.

Meetings will be recorded for public dissemination. Commission members should note that all discussions in the main Commission meetings will, unless by exception to be agreed in advance by the Chair, be released into the public domain.

Advisory status

The Commission is an advisory body and has no decision-making powers. Formal decisions to implement any recommendations made by the Commission within Essex County Council will be taken and actioned in accordance with the ECC Constitution.



Essex Climate Action Commission

Annex 1 - Membership

Prof. Jules Pretty (Chair)	Cllr. Sue Lissimore
Prajwal Pandey (Co-Chair)	Dr Simon Lyster
Ellie (Co-Chair)	Dr Laura Mansell-Thomas
James Abbott	Prof. Jacqueline McGlade
Jillian Anable	Robert Mitchell
Matt Butcher	Right Revd. Roger Morris
Catherine Cameron	Mark Nowers
Julia Crear	Rob Pilley
Cllr. Peter Davey	Dr Adam Read
Ian Davidson	Jo Roberts
Richard Davidson	Yarema Ronish
Sarah Gill	Ellis Shelton
Cllr. Ivan Henderson	Jonathan Stephenson
Heather Hilburn	Jerry Stokes
Victoria Hills	Cllr. Paul Thorogood
Prof. Peter Hobson	Prof. Graham Underwood
Andrew Impey	Simon Walsh
Prof. Aled Jones	Cllr Holly Whitbread
Cllr. David King	Rob Wise
John Lippe	Dr Poone Yazdanpanah



Essex Climate Action Commission

Annex 2 – Workplan (Jan to Dec 2023)

1. The Commission will monitor and regularly report on progress of recommendations implementation in the following areas:

- a. Land Use and Green Infrastructure
- b. Energy
- c. The Built Environment
- d. Transport
- e. Waste
- f. Community Engagement
- g. Green Economy (previously known as Green Growth)

2. Current Commission meetings set are as follows:

- **March 2023: Enabling Community Renewable Energy**
- **June 2023: Biodiversity and Local Nature Recovery**
- **September 2023: How climate action improves the lives of people in Essex**
- **December 2023: Community Engagement**