

Climate Change Action Commission

Essex County Council

Action on Climate Change

March 2020



Essex County Council

AIM OF THE COMMISSION

The Climate Action Commission has been established to provide advice to help Essex County Council (ECC) tackle climate change.

The Commission is asked to:

1. Identify ways in which 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 one)
2. Explore how we attract investment in natural capital and low carbon growth (year two)

The full Terms of Reference will be agreed at the first meeting of the Commission.

ACTIONS: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Flood Management

- ECC have spent £17.6 million on Flood Protection over the last 5 years, raising additional £6.1 external funding
- ECC have protected 1,300 properties over the last 5 years
- Leading and award winning Flood Authority on “Natural Flood Management”

Sustainable Urban Drainage(SuDS)

- ECC comments on 500 planning applications p.a. ensuring drainage “betterment” on new developments
- April 2020 launch of SuDs guide and website for developers
- Basildon Hospital Suds Garden, 90% externally funded whilst creating a green health benefits



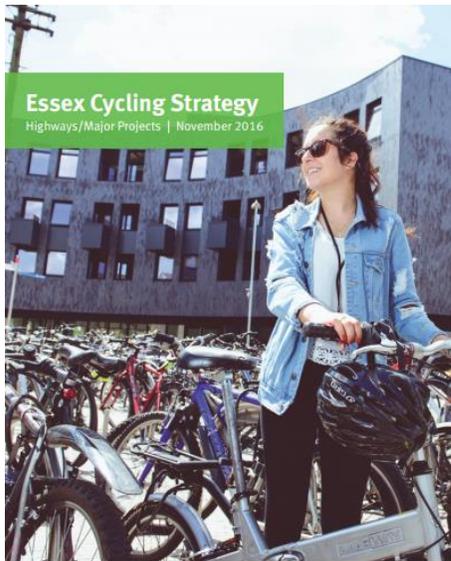
ACTIONS: TRANSPORT

Essex Highways

- Essex Highways are exploring warm tarmac

Active Travel

- Essex Cycling Strategy



Electrification of Transport

- Develop EV on street charging, with a pilot set to complete the first installations by May 2020
- Explore options for converting ECCs commercial and car lease fleets to electric
- Gridserve are building a solar powered forecourt that will be able to charge 24 EVs at once at Great Notley, near Braintree, Essex

ACTIONS: BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Essex County Council Estate

- Trialling carbon neutral school buildings at four school expansion projects across Essex, with projects completing as early as next year
- We will invest in energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions our public and school buildings
- We will explore changing procurement rules requiring suppliers to adopt **more stringent sustainable practices**

Essex Businesses

- On-going grant programme for SMEs in Essex to improve energy efficiency
- We will convene Essex business leaders to encourage collective commitments on reducing carbon emissions



ACTIONS: ENERGY & WASTE

Waste & Recycling

- Segregated food waste collections for all households enables c. 30,000 tonnes of waste per year produces energy via anaerobic digestion
- Almost 55% of our household waste is recycled and contributing to a more circular economy

Energy

- Buy **green energy** and generate more of our own renewable energy on our public buildings and at a larger scale on ECC owned land
- Generate energy from landfill gas
- We will continue a collective buying scheme to enable residents to buy solar panels for their homes at discounted prices from reliable suppliers



The North Essex Energy Group (NEEG) have opportunities for businesses within the energy sector in North Essex, notably wind.



ACTIONS: LAND USE & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green Infrastructure Strategy

- Support Greening of Town Centres by setting up a **Green Essex Network**
- Develop the 350 miles Coast Path around Essex
- Providing signage and Hopper buses connecting people to the Coast through “Pathways to Prosperity” project

Land Use

- Committed to planting 375,000 trees by 2025.
- Manage nine country parks and 30 woodlands
- Sustainably managing conservation meadows with Ref Poll rare breed cattle



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, the BBC logo is visible on the left, and navigation links for 'Sign in', 'News', 'Sport', 'Weather', 'iPlayer', and 'Sounds' are on the right. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'UK', 'World', 'Business', 'Politics', 'Tech', 'Science', 'Health', and 'Family & Education'. The article is categorized under 'England' and 'Essex'. The main headline reads 'Essex County Council to launch million-pound tree project'. Below the headline is the date '8 October 2019' and social media sharing icons for Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Email, and a general 'Share' button. A tag 'Climate change' is visible. The article features a photograph of five people standing outside a building. One person is holding a sign that says 'No more excuses Act on climate Change Now!!'. Another person is holding a large whiteboard with the question 'How concerned are you about Climate Change?' and a grid of colored dots representing responses. Below the photo is a caption: 'Extinction Rebellion campaigned outside the meeting'. The article text below the photo states: 'A local authority is to plant 375,000 trees to demonstrate its "commitment to climate change" reversal. Essex County Council will grant funding of £250,000 to start a Climate Change Commission, along with a "million-pound" Essex Forest Initiative.'

ACTIONS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Waste reduction Campaigns

- Love Essex Not Plastic partnership campaign
- Behaviour change initiatives on reuse, cloth nappies and home composting
- Waste Buster volunteer scheme
- Cleaner Essex Campaigns on fly-tipping and litter



Community energy

- Essex energy switch campaign to encourage residents on to better energy deals and green energy
- Supporting community groups to set up community action groups and take steps to make communities net zero
- Support measures through Government funding to improve energy efficiency in fuel poor households



ACTIONS: ESSEX HOUSING



- Photo-Voltaic installed on almost all developments
- Electric vehicle charging points installed in some developments
- Electric vehicle rental scheme in place
- A new scheme in Harlow proposes the use of air-source heat pumps (subject to planning consent)

ACTIONS: CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Blueprint to a circular economy

Essex County Council have been successful in a collaborative bid for EU funding to lead a partnership with the following objectives:

- Provide a Blueprint model for Local Authorities to successfully implement circular economy practices.
- Produce a Circular Economy Strategy for Essex, leading the way on how LAs approach and implement the circular economy.
- Provide a training programme developed and implemented by social enterprises to support employment opportunities.
- Implement a series of household pilots to learn lessons on best practice and deliver lasting behaviour change.



ANY QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions on the contents of this presentation to climate.commission@essex.gov.uk