



Essex Climate Action Commission  
**Powering positive change**

# Special Interest Group Updates to ECAC

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Essex County Council

# Updates

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





# Land Use and Green Infrastructure





# Essex Forest Initiative – Urban Tree Challenge Fund and Local Authority Treescape Fund

EFI has been successful with 2 external funding bids to bolster the work already being done

**UTCF: £664,105.78** over 4 years

**LATF: £141,772** over 4 years

Total of £805,877.78

Supports urban planting of standard sized trees and, crucially, funds their establishment costs

EFI will plant over 1000 street trees with these funds.



## Essex Forest Initiative Green Apple Award

- EFI has won the international Green Apple Environment Award in the Local Authority and Climate Change category
- They recognised the positive impact the project has on both the environment and local communities
- The physical tree planting was one element of the EFI's success but Green Apple also took into consideration the use of biodegradable, plastic free tree guards, mulch made from recycled garden waste in Essex and the use of locally sourced materials where possible (e.g. fencing and gates).

# Outputs from the CFA stakeholder workshops



- 57 individuals from 40 organisations attended across the 9 sessions
- They have generated 19 strategies and 38 work packages across various themes
- A new collaboration platform (Moodle) to be set up for new and existing stakeholders to exchange knowledge and collaborate on delivery of WPs
- Training packages for communities and parish councils will be developed (planning, policy, etc.)
- Continuous monitoring and reporting of progress
- Potential for future meetings (online or face-to-face)





## Essex Net Zero Innovation Futures - CFA

- Successful bid to Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund £98,495 to unlock private and public investment in natural capital assets and ecosystem services at four sites (total 1.56kha) in the Essex Climate Focus Area (CFA).
- Project partners:
  - **Finance Earth**, UK's leading environmental impact investment adviser will lead the creation of an investment case.
  - **Downforce Technologies**, a UK start-up will use its cutting-edge technology to work with landowners to provide baselines, past performance and projections of natural capital and ecosystem services.
  - **The Institute for Global Prosperity** will bring its world-leading ecological economists to undertake the valuations of ecosystem services.
- Mapping of ecosystem services across the 4 sites to be completed by end of November
- This will be followed by workshops to understand key requirements and an options assessment report



# Farm Clusters in Essex & CFA

Addresses ECAC recommendation for sustainable farming

North Essex Farm Cluster - River Pant and upper Blackwater.

The catchment covers around 56,000 hectares (560 km<sup>2</sup>)

40+ farmers and Landowners engaged

Recruiting a Farm cluster coordinator partially funded by ECC (£20K)

Additional Partners – Anglian Water, Essex And Suffolk Water

Farm Cluster Benefits

- Knowledge sharing
- Project coordination
- Resource pooling
- Combined funding bids



Image From the [North Essex Farm Cluster Website](#)



## Ursuline School, Brentwood

This scheme was designed to reduce the risk of surface water flooding to residential properties by reducing the height of the existing outfall from the pond by 500mm. By doing this we have created additional storage that can be utilised in periods of heavy rainfall. The scheme has been designed to reduce surface water flood risk to residential properties downstream of the school. In addition to flood risk reduction, the scheme has introduced bird/bat boxes and removed dead and over hanging trees to enhance the environmental benefits. Access for students and maintenance has also been improved by the work ECC have completed.





# Energy and Waste





## Renewable`

- Solar Together Essex – first 2022 installs delivered in June, over 1100 offers accepted, expect c.660 installations
- Renewable energy resource assessment to identify potential for renewable energy (solar and onshore wind) to inform local communities and neighbourhood plans
- Working with Parishes and Industrial Estates on feasibility studies for community financed and community owned smart local solar and storage systems



Ed. businesses cases....





## Community energy

- Pathways Project – mentoring support to new community energy groups extended to March 23 – pending confirmation to extend to March 24. Community energy groups now leading feasibility studies for local renewable energy projects
- Community Climate Action Challenge fund - £250k of grants now awarded to 21 organisations for community led climate action initiatives
- Planning next phase of support and Comms activity for community led renewable energy projects
- Working with Community Energy South and UKPN on CommuniPower; the first “whole village” project to decarbonise heat and power - bid to Ofgem Network Innovation Fund now submitted



**SAFFRON WALDEN**  
COMMUNITY ENERGY



Community  
Energy  
Colchester



**TOLLESBURY**  
**CLIMATE**  
**PARTNERSHIP**  
OUR VILLAGE OUR FUTURE

**SUSTAINABLE DANBURY**

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## Retrofit and Fuel poor households

- Next phase of Green Homes Grant – now “Sustainable Warmth / Home Upgrade Grant” – will be targeting E, F and G households about to launch
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - £2.6m – in delivery
- Detailed analysis of housing stock and pathways to net zero complete
- Retrofit Academy – training up a workforce & support local suppliers – seeking funding to roll out
- Bid to MCS Charitable Foundation to develop business plan for retrofit for self funded sector
- Looking at options for energy efficiency advice and support to small and medium sized enterprises
- Bid submitted to Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund to support access to cheap renewable energy using smart technology for low-income households

### Poor UK households may have to spend half their income on energy, says charity

Joseph Rowntree Foundation calls on the government to help vulnerable people facing 'heat or eat' decisions



## Retrofit Funding - details



RETROFIT PROGRAMMES		Description	Budget	Impact
<a href="#">Warm Homes Essex</a>	2019 - 2022	ECC led project with Citizens Advice Essex providing energy and financial wellbeing advice to fuel poor residents	<b>£859k</b> (100% grant funded, free to resident support) FUNDING ENDS JUNE 2021	2,500 households supported Additional resident income of £4 million
<a href="#">Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) Phase 1a</a>	Oct 2020 - Sep 21	ECC led project with consortium of 7 Essex LA. Retrofitting low income, EPC E, F and G properties with £10k average grant	<b>£813,000</b> (100% grant funded, free to resident support) COMPLETED & CLOSED	82 homes successfully retrofitted
GHG LAD Phase 1b	Feb 21- Mar 22	Tendring DC and Castle Point BC won individual bids on park home sites	<b>£975k &amp; £2.3m</b> (100% grant funded, free to resident support) ONGOING	100 and 250 park homes respectively
GHG LAD Phase 2	Apr 21 – Mar 22	Greater South East Energy Hub led project to retrofit low income, EPC D, E, F or G properties	<b>£5.2m</b> allocated (100% grant funded, free to resident support) ONGOING	Capacity for circa 520 homes retrofitted – <i>in delivery</i>
Sustainable Warmth	Jan 22 – Mar 23	As above, extension of the funding with an extra focus and increased funding for off gas properties	<b>£17.2m*</b> awarded (100% grant funded, free to resident support) ONGOING	Capacity for circa 1690 homes retrofitted – <i>none yet delivered, future programme</i>
Community Renewal Fund	Oct 21 – Mar 23	Retrofit supply chain research, support and training in Tendring and Harlow working with <b>Retrofit Academy</b> – sector leader in retrofit skills development	<b>£700k</b> allocated to ECC and Retrofit Academy to deliver training and research. FUNDING ENDS 2023	50 retrofit assessors, 50 retrofit coordinators, 30 retrofit advisors, 2 Retrofit Academy approved training centres
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1	Feb 22-May 23	ECC awaiting outcome of bid submitted with Sanctuary Housing and Eastlight Community Homes to retrofit low EPC social homes in Essex	<b>£2.6m</b> applied for the Essex region (free to resident support, net nil cost to ECC) GRANT TBC	769 homes retrofitted, average household bill saving £118/year – <i>in delivery</i>



\* Allocation being revised downwards by BEIS as part of national delivery challenges for the programme. May reduce allocation to Essex by 50%. Work underway to engage with BEIS to secure longer term funding commitment



# Energy and Waste





# Waste Services & Strategy Development

## Waste Strategy

- The Waste Strategy is a collaboration between 13 Essex Councils, with a vision to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Future deliver options are being modelled - greenhouse gas modelling has been integrated into the process to help inform.
- Public consultation on the Waste Strategy is scheduled for 2023.

## Services

- Procurement launched to secure future organic waste treatment capacity for Essex. Ensuring beneficial use for food waste and garden waste.
- Recycling and composting services are being enhanced to improve service accessibility.
- Reuse repair & refurbishment service opportunities at recycling centres are under development, for launch in 2022 and 2023.
- The Love Essex Micro-grant Programme is being refreshed for 2023 to focus on community based reuse and repair activity

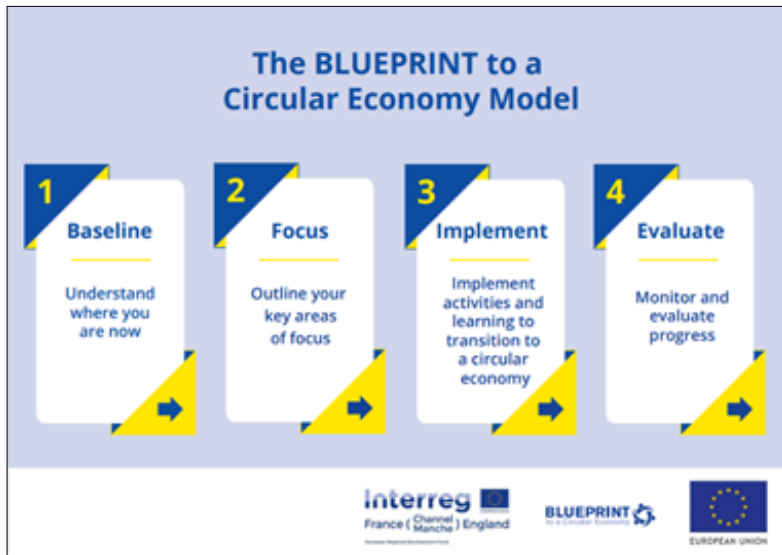






# BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy

Essex is leading the development of the BLUEPRINT model. This aims to support local authorities and others to transition to a more Circular Economy approach.



- The BLUEPRINT toolkit will launch in January 2023.
- 30 councils (9 in Essex) have already expressed interest in using the toolkit.
- An insight tool intended to help councils track waste reduction initiative impacts is also in development.
- ‘Library of Things’ initiative is now embedded into core Library Service offer.
- 41 Essex schools have rolled out materials to students.
- 121 Essex learners have now completed Circular Economy learning modules.





# Tackling Food Waste

Over a quarter of the 'black bag' waste is food, despite food recycling collection services being provided to almost all Essex households

## Improving Participation in Services

- A 12,000 household trial testing various operational changes and promotion approaches to increase participation has been concluded. Positive results in both reducing waste and increasing service participation have been seen.
- The most impactful approaches are now being further tested across the whole of Chelmsford before a proposed countywide adoption.



## Supporting Our Residents

- Kitch, a food reduction app, to help residents reduce food waste has now over 800 downloads.
- A trial mentoring programme 'Food For Thought' is being launched to help residents tackle both the impact and cost of food waste.





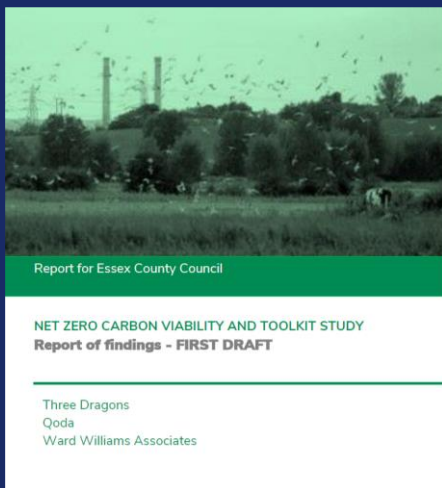
# Built Environment



# Developing Consistent Policy

Consistent  
Policy

- Policy formation – recruited help draft climate change policies.
- Commissioning Viability Evidence



NZ Homes are viable in most house typologies and most place in Essex.

The difference between FHS and NZ new build is between £2,000-£3,000

Next step Commission Legal advice to justify going beyond building regs.



# Supporting LPA's

- Survey evidence in 2021 identified huge demand for **climate change training** for town planners.
- Support needed for policy development.
- Support needed at **planning appeals**.
- Demand for best practice guidance.

Support for  
LPAs



Good progress has been made with the **Essex Design Guide**, including:

Climate Change Compendium – completed

Guidance on Solar Gain – Completed

Guidance on Historical Buildings – near completion

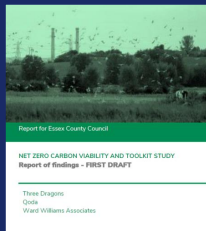
Walkable Neighbourhoods' Part 1 – al



# Working with the Construction Sector

Knowledge & talking the same language

- To Commissioning research -
- To initiate positive action – including



## Climate Action Developers Charter Action Plan.

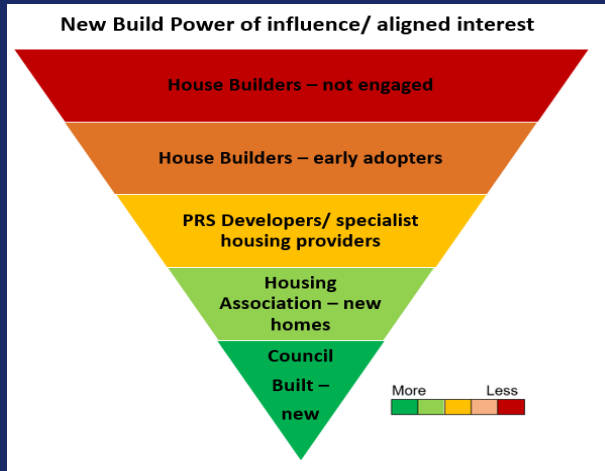
This Charter has identified a series of Actions. These include:

- Net Zero Show Homes
- Case Studies
- Sponsorship of Apprenticeships in Design and Green Construction Skills
- Essex Housing Awards starting in 2022 introducing NZ categories.



# Providing choice for and informing the Customer

The Customer



- **Net Zero Show Homes**
- A next step is to develop information to include with any new build land search.





# Transport





## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2022

### School Streets

- Phase 1 implemented in Sawyers Hall Lane (Brentwood), Winstree Road (Colchester) and Gilchrist Way and Lancaster Way (Braintree)

### Active Travel

- ATF2 funding gap and delays
- Capability Fund (~£1M) bid due end of Sept
- ATF4 funding opens in October
- We didn't get the Social Prescribing Funding

### Cycling

- LCWIPs begun for Witham & Brentwood and refresh underway for Braintree, Chelmsford & Colchester
- Construction of the Jaywick to Clacton route is due to begin in October 2022.
- Work on 2 key routes in Chelmsford delayed.
- Broomfield Rd review ongoing
- EPP Colchester soft launch in October

### EV

- Mitie commissioned to plan / install EVCP at ECC properties
- OZEV bid due to be submitted this month
- Telematics kits tender due out this month

### Passenger Transport

- Community Rail shortlisted for 4 awards; plus 5 new event trains
- TravelEssex digital information portal procurement underway
- Bus Shelter Transformation project due to launch by end of month



**SAFER**  
**GREENER**  
**HEALTHIER**



# Community Engagement





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# Events and visits



- Heybridge Basin Regatta (16/07) - Heybridge
- Networking Essex (11/08) - Colchester
- Chelmsford Green City (24/08) - Chelmsford
- Eco Festival (03/09) - Colchester



- Fairfield's Farm
- Hadleigh Country Park
- Ecolnes Refillery



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# Climate Action Challenge Fund



**48**

applications received



**22**

applications approved

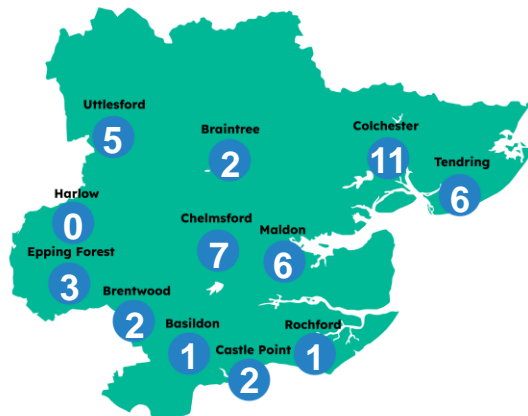
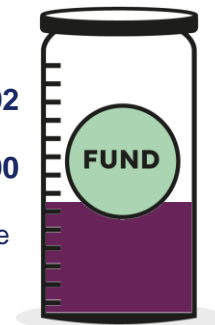


**£267,498**

Awarded to date



**£232,502**  
out of  
**£500,000**  
still  
available



**Application regional breakdown**

## Applicant type breakdown



Community group

**5**



Registered charity

**19**



CIC or Social Enterprise

**5**



Parish Council

**7**



School

**9**



Other

**3**



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- Being part of Involve's Local Climate Engagement Project Group will be a major step forward for community engagement within ECC, ECAC and the CFA.
- We will be working specifically with Involve, UK:100, Democratic Society, Shared Future & Climate Outreach - the UK's leading organisations in the field.
- The project will focus on co-producing Climate & Biodiversity Action Plans with local communities in the Climate Focus Area, as a pilot to then roll out to the rest of Essex.



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# Carbon Literacy training

- Available to all ECC members and employees
- Educates on causes and effects of climate change with a specific focus on Essex
- Provides understanding of what those at ECC can do to fight climate change both as an individual and in a group setting
- Involves pledging to undertake new and significant actions
- 350+ have registered so far

