



Maldon District Council's

# Climate Action Plan

2023  
2024

**Taking climate action for our future home and generations**

16 March 2023



Supported by  
One Maldon District







# contents

## Contents

Introduction ..... 4

Who has contributed to the Action plan?..... 6

Climate Action Plan 2023/2024 ..... 7

Climate action co-benefits ..... 8

Engagement with Maldon District communities ..... 9

Pledge 1 - Kick the Car Habit..... 12

Pledge 2 - Create Less Waste ..... 15

Pledge 3 - Show Nature We Care ..... 18

Pledge 4 - Be a Council That Leads by Example ..... 23

Pledge 5 - Develop a strong policy commitment to Climate Action ..... 26

Monitoring and reporting ..... 29

Risks to delivery ..... 30

List of Figures and tables ..... 31



# Introduction

Maldon District Council (the Council) declared a Climate Emergency in February 2021 and in January 2022 the Council’s Climate Action Strategy (CAS) was adopted. The CAS is a positive step to identifying ways to reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience across the Maldon District. This will include developing strong climate partnership links, pushing to be the first in line for sustainable transport options, finding ways to support sustainable agriculture, encouraging development that meets all future homes standards, and engaging and empowering our communities to make low carbon and informed choices.

When the CAS was adopted, the Council committed to developing a yearly Climate Action Plan (CAP), which would set the actions and initiatives that would help us on our net zero journey. The CAP aims to prioritise actions in accordance with the Carbon Management Hierarchy (Figure 1), where the most desired actions are those that avoid emissions, followed by those that reduce or replace emissions. Offsetting should only be used as a last resort after all other options have been exhausted.

The actions and initiatives within the CAP have been categorised into short-, medium and long-term objectives, where:

- **Short-term refers to actions that will be completed in 2023/2024**
- **Medium-term refers to actions that will begin in 2023/2024 but are not due for completion until 2025/2026. In this case updates will be published in yearly action plans up to 2025/2026**
- **Long-term are actions that will be begin in 2023/2024 but may be ongoing and will be updated in each yearly action plan**

This plan sets out the activities that the Council can lead on and undertake in 2023/2024. The CAP will be delivered within existing resources, although external funding opportunities will also be sought.

It should be noted that this action plan will evolve in response to emerging local, regional, and national policy and legislation.

## The Carbon Management Hierarchy

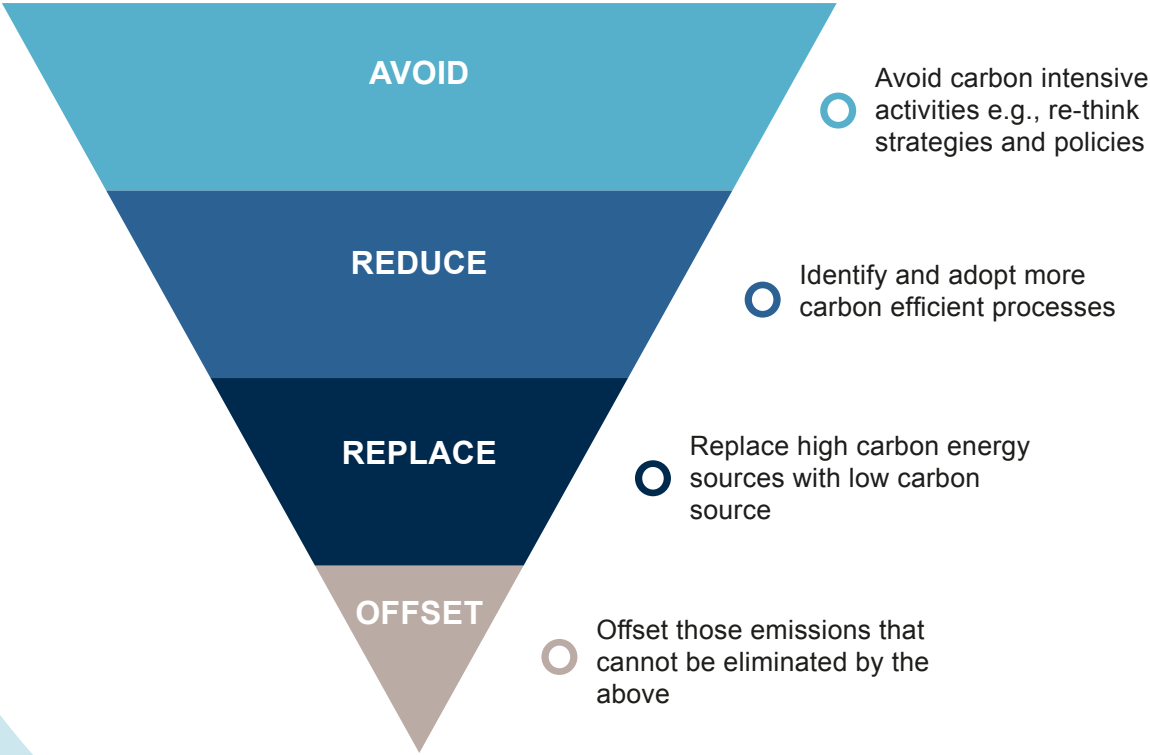


Figure 1 The Carbon Management Hierarchy

# Who has contributed to the Action plan?

The CAS cannot be implemented by the Council alone, and the actions set out are ones which the Council can take, either alone, or in partnership with others. At a local level, the Council already works with several statutory bodies and local agencies. We will continue to work with them to progress the work of the CAS. They include:

- Blackwater Partnership
- City, District and Borough Authority Climate Forum
- CO2 Reduction Essex (CORE) group
- ECC Climate Action Commission
- Essex County Council (ECC) Nature Partnership and Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service (Maldon CVS)
- Mid Essex Health Alliance
- North Essex Economic Board (NEEB)
- One Maldon District Partnership
- Southeast Energy Hub
- Southeast Local Enterprise Partnership

- The Blackwater Partnership
- The Essex Communications Group
- Transport East
- Visit Essex (tourism)

In addition to the steer from national government strategies, and a growing evidence base on the impact that local authorities can have on climate change, the action plan has been developed in collaboration with Council officers across the authority. This approach has helped identified how the Council might act to deliver the CAS ‘pledges’ and what the actions should be.

# Climate Action Plan 2023/2024

The remainder of this document is based on the ‘areas of focus’ as set out in the CAS as Climate Action Pledges. These are detailed on pages 5-8 of the CAS and summarised in Figure 2.

The five Climate Action Pledges are championed by eight Council employees, and they are known as the ‘Pledge Connectors.’ The Pledge Connectors are strategically placed across the Council and their role is to provide specialist support and guidance on the prioritisation and progress of the pledge actions.

The CAP details the priority actions within each pledge for 2023/2024. They have been prioritised according to their impact on carbon emissions and their ability to kick start the necessary change, or generate the understanding, that we will need to help us move to a carbon neutral Maldon District by 2030.

This CAP includes specific projects and activities that have emerged from the pledges within the CAS since its adoption in 2021.



Figure 2 The Climate Action Pledges

# Climate action co-benefits

The CAP has the potential to deliver many other local benefits, including improved health and wellbeing, increased community cohesion, economic opportunities and increased resilience to extreme weather events and rising fuel prices.

Co-benefits are important because they demonstrate a connection between climate action and other issues. For example, reducing air pollution from emissions of fossil fuels reduces environmental impacts and improves health and wellbeing. Here, health and wellbeing is the co-benefit. This action plan recognises the co-benefit(s) of each action.

Example of co-benefits of tackling climate change are presented in figure 3, which also includes the symbols used to represent them in the pledge descriptions.



**Health and wellbeing**  
E.g. more efficient homes, access to affordable warmth, cleaner air, increased levels of activity through walking and cycling, reducing climate anxiety and improved quality of life for residents.



**Economy**  
E.g. better offices, creation of new jobs, enhanced green skills and training, Local green goods and services, local investment opportunities, reduced energy costs, reduced environmental impacts and a more inclusive economy.



**Resilience**  
E.g. ability to withstand impacts of climate changes, ability to cope with future increases in energy prices, increase adaptability to future changes such as transition to electric vehicles (EVs).



**Community cohesion**  
E.g. alleviation of fuel poverty, clean air, improved access to green spaces and community engagement.

Figure 3 Co-benefit symbols and examples





# Engagement with Maldon District communities

In addition to the five Climate Action Pledges, the Council will continue to explore effective ways of engaging with partners and stakeholders and will look for ways to encourage and support delivery of the CAS through local initiatives. This section of the CAP sets out the community engagement actions that will take place during the period 2023/2024. As set out in the CAS, the Council will adopt an Asset-Based Community Development<sup>1</sup> approach to working with organisations, residents, businesses, and the entire community of Maldon District. Many of the actions will need to be delivered in partnership with these stakeholders in a delivery or an advisory capacity.

The Council Climate Action Friends (CAF) group has been set up to enable the community to sign up and receive climate action updates and share their ideas with other CAF Members, as of Feb 2023 there were 35 members. The Council will facilitate up to four CAF member meetings a year, which will act as a sounding board to help shape communications and initiatives to implement the objectives of the CAS. An inaugural meeting is planned for April 2023.

The Council will explore effective ways of engaging with partners and stakeholders, and look for ways to encourage and support delivery of the CAS through the following local activities:

<sup>1</sup> The ABCD approach encourages communities and individual households to identify their existing assets and to use what they already have more efficiently and effectively to improve their own lives. It is based on three principles: 'everyone has gifts', 'relationships build a community' and 'start with what you have'. <https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/asset-based-community-developmentlocal-authorities/>







Table 1 Engagement					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Develop community climate action support	 	The Council launched the CAF group in April 2022.	Short-term	Completed	Enhanced engagement from the community for climate action projects
		The aim is to grow this group thorough targeted social media campaigns, annual CAF meetings and promotion at other events and activities.	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	
		In partnership with Maldon CVS trial quarterly meetings of the CAF group. This will allow the Council to listen to the CAF and develop the correct support in the right places to help them take positive climate actions.			
		Provide expertise to community groups and climate partnerships to help them deliver climate action projects and environmental initiatives across the district.			
		Issue regular climate action email updates to the Climate Action Friends, Members, Parish and Town Councils.			
Update the Council's Climate Action webpage	 	Keep the climate action section of the website updated and include the latest information on climate action community groups, activities and events	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Community more informed and driving greater engagement with activities

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Help residents, businesses and schools understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis	 	Spreading the message by attending events, visiting schools, social media campaigns.  Empowering the community with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to act as ambassadors for change.  Provide information on expert talks, workshops, and training courses	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Greater participation in climate action activities and training










# Pledge 01 - Kick the Car Habit

Through our ‘Kick the Car Habit’ pledge we aim to work with partners to reduce traffic and shift to more sustainable modes of transport. This will lead to improvements in emissions, air quality, noise, and safety. Table 4 lists the actions that will take place in 2023/2024 to help improve sustainable transport across the Maldon District:




Table 2 Kick the Car Habit pledge actions					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Lobbying with ECC to invest in active travel schemes	  	Work with ECC to review, influence and finalise the Maldon District Future Transport Strategy (MDFTS) and promote schemes which will help implement the initiatives and projects contained within the Strategy.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	MDFTS developed and adopted
		Work with ECC to help shape their review of a refreshed Essex Cycling Strategy.	Long-term		Strategy developed and adopted
		The Council will lobby ECC for funding for walking and cycling projects via MDFTS and designated funds from A12 widening scheme.			Influence investment in active
Update the Council's Vehicle Parking Strategy Supplementary Planning Document	  	Evidence is being gathered and will be evaluated and used to update our own Vehicle Parking Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD.) to support park and stride and park and ride initiatives.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	SPD produced

## Kick the Car Habit continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
See a roll-out of public electric charging points, particularly where on-street parking is not available	  	Work with ECC to develop their county-wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy Charging Strategy to set out guidance for provision of EV charge points across the District.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Strategy developed and adopted
		Utilise the Council’s assets in public car parks and open spaces for public EV charging points based on ‘park and charge’ and seek funding from Department for Transport, Energy Savings Trust and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding scheme.	Medium-term	Planning	EV charging opportunities identified
		Undertake a technological review of the Council’s current car parks strategy.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Review completed
Implement a sustainable staff travel plan	 	To prepare a Staff Travel Plan for adoption in 2023/2024 and review the onsite facilities for car sharing, walking and cycling to and from the Council’s offices.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Staff Travel Plan developed and adopted
Increase use of electric Council vehicles	 	Working with the Energy Savings Trust to commission a fleet report and a Fleet Transition Forward Plan report.	Short-term	Planning	Fleet report and a Fleet Transition Forward Plan report
		Trial and use an electric vehicle in our parks departments to explore the suitability and demand.		In progress	Trial completed and case study developed







Kick the Car Habit continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods	  	The Council is producing wayfinding signage, which will include maps and local information to help people explore Maldon town centre by foot. These signs will be located by the White Horse Lane and High Street East car parks.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Signage improved and more people using the routes on foot.
		Continue to map and promote 'Walk It Local' routes in the District to local facilities and services, ensuring routes are accessible for all.			Maps produced and more people downloading the maps to use the routes on foot.
		All new development to be landscape led to ensure off - road walking and cycling infrastructure is designed in via Policy D1 and the Maldon District Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Included in Local Development Plan (LDP)
		Central Area Master Plan (CAMP) Project has an emphasis on deterring car use in Maldon Town Centre and prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. The Council's Commercial team to prioritise CAMP projects.			Prioritisation, funding, and implementation of CAMP projects









Pledge 02 - Create less waste

The Council's 'Create Less Waste' pledge focuses on efforts to reduce the quantity of waste and increasing recycling rates. The 'Create Less Waste' actions for 2023/2024 are listed in the table 5 below:




Table 3 Create Less Waste pledge actions					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Establish a business and youth engagement group to act as ambassadors, to promote new and established ways to re-use, reduce and recycle	 	The Council's Community team will work with the schools and youth groups to develop a new Youth Council, linked to the One Maldon District (OMD) partnership, which will bring together representatives from the local statutory, voluntary, private and youth sectors. There will be Climate Ambassador roles within the Youth Council, which will have a focus on tackling aspects climate change locally.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Climate Ambassador roles established within the Youth Council
		Assist in the planning and implementation of the Plume Academy's 'Let's Talk Trash' Event, which will take place in July 2023. The event aims to engage young people and raise awareness of the climate challenge and the impacts of littering and waste.		In progress reviewed quarterly until event is complete	Council helps run 'Let's Talk Trash' event. Increased climate challenge and the impacts of littering and waste
Encourage community upcycling, turn waste into art and link to culture	 	Support the Maldon Men's Shed and involve them in community upcycling projects e.g., green hearts campaign/community cupboards	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	SPD Increase the level of involvement from Men's Shed in community climate action projects



## Create less waste continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
<b>Home grown initiatives (from garden to table) and composting</b>	  	Work with Abberton Rural Training to develop a business case for the LoCO2 kitchen. LoCO2 is a community kitchen that aims to teach residents about food production and cooking skills from garden to table. The kitchen would act as an influencer to encourage the community to adopt and think about their own carbon emissions and ways to make reductions.	Short-term	Planning	Development and approval of a business case for LoCO2
<b>Reduction in waste</b>	  	Reduce the environmental impacts of events by asking event organisers to use the 'Hire or Use of Maldon District Council owned Open Spaces 2023 - Expression of Interest Form' to demonstrate how they can make their events greener e.g., no single use plastic, sustainable packaging, recycling provision at events etc.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Events Expression of Interest and Service Level Agreement to actively encourage sustainability at events
		From October 2023 the UK Government will introduce further bans on single-use plastics, including items such as plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The Council will inform and engage with local businesses to help them transition to more sustainable packaging.		In progress reviewed quarterly	Successful transition to sustainable packaging


## Create less waste continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
		Support & actively contribute to Love Essex, Love Food campaign. Future engagements include social media take over, bus back advertising, billboards, food reduction competitions, pledge to cut down on food waste and promotion of the Kitche app.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly started January 2023 with a photo call and press release.	Reduction in food waste. Increased engagement with the Kitche app
<b>Improving the waste lifecycle so that we are managing waste more sustainably</b>	  	Whilst most flats have existing recycling facilities, the range of material streams collected is of ten limited, capture rates are low, and contamination is high. The Council is finalising and documenting a review of recycling facilities in flats, which will include the results of a 'Consistency of Collections' consultation. This will show what facilities should be provided to all residents including flats.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Results of 'Consistency of Collections' consultation and recommendation on what facilities should be provided to all residents including flats
		In partnership with Suez, the Council will run a soft plastic collection trial, initially to approximately 7,000 residents before rolling out to all households in the District by 2025. This trial will allow the Council and Suez to understand the life cycle of soft plastic waste (including quantity, quality, cost, and challenges).		In progress reviewed quarterly- Trial started 31st January	Successful rollout of the trial.





# Pledge 03 - Show Nature we care

The Council’s ‘Show Nature We Care’ pledge focuses on our shared goals and aspirations for nature, biodiversity, health, and wellbeing. This pledge focuses actions to reduce CO2 through nature-based solutions, i.e., absorption by trees, vegetation and soils as well as using nature benefits to help mitigate the effects of climate change whilst creating more inviting spaces for both residents and wildlife. The ‘Show Nature We Care’ actions for 2023/2024 are listed in the table 6 below:












Table 4 Show Nature We Care pledge actions					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Protect & enhance Biodiversity in the Council’s estate		Support the new Lead Countryside & Coast Officer with the development of the District Green Spaces Management Plan.	Medium-term	Planning	District Green Spaces Management Plan produced
Protect the District’s natural capital including coastal habitats, biodiversity, and natural greening		Review and adopt the new Blackwater Partnership <sup>2</sup> Strategy.	Short-term	Pending	Adoption of the Blackwater Partnership Strategy
		Review of local wildlife sites to be included in the LDP review.			Completion of review and report

<sup>2</sup> The Blackwater Partnership brings together a range of experts and stakeholders, including Maldon District Council, that work together to influence, fund, support and deliver impactful nature and biodiversity projects. The partnership broadly covering the Blackwater and Colne estuaries, and the Dengie.










Show nature we care continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Continue to deliver air quality improvement via the Market Hill Air Quality Action Plan 2020 -2025		<p>Specific actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Re-evaluate the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and the timescales for various actions in line with the successful DEFRA bid: and</li><li>Prioritise the AQAP actions against available resources.</li></ul> <p>Present rating to Members for consideration.</p>	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly reviewed quarterly	Evidence of the completion of actions including Member feedback
Carry out a strategic flood risk assessment as part of the LDP review		Complete the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), which will include climate change modelling. The SFRA will be used to inform the LDP review and subsequently advise the planning application process.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment produced
		Conduct a District Water Cycle study for the LDP review.		Planning	Water Cycle study completed
		The CAMP Project has emphasis on ‘sites’ where flood ‘resilience’ infrastructure is required ‘in the District’s largest employment area’ and within Flood Zone 3a and as such the Council will prioritise the actions within the Causeway Flood Risk Assessment.		In progress reviewed quarterly	Prioritisation plan completed

## Show nature we care continued


Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
<b>Plant more trees, and support rewilding, 24% of the district is woodland</b>	  	Continue to promote tree planting schemes such as the Essex Forest Initiative and Woodland Trust to the parish and town councils, community groups and the wider community.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Increased number of trees planted
<b>Deliver Maldon District Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019 projects</b>	   	Work with the new Lead Countryside & Coast Officer to review and prioritise Maldon District Green Infrastructure Strategy (MDGIS) projects.	Short-term	Planning	GI projects prioritised
		The Council will be running a series of events that have been developed from the activities within the MDGIS action plan, these include: • UFEST - Community Festival; and • Ride London 2023.		In progress reviewed quarterly until event has taken place	Successful implementation of events
<b>Link exercise to waste – jogging, walking and litter picks, path clearing clubs</b>	   	Support and promote existing and new litter picking activities across the District through the provision of equipment, collection of litter and sharing details through our communications channels.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Increasing in number of litters picking activities
		Work in partnership with the Maldon CVS and Active Essex to develop a proposal for a Green and Blue Prescribing project. Green and Blue prescribing is a nature-based health programme that aims to both improve health and promoting pro-environmental behaviours.			Development of proposal for Green and blue Prescribing

## Show nature we care continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
<b>Welcome solar farm developments</b>	  	Develop renewable energy SPDs for large stand-alone sites and for small developments. To include geographic information system (GIS) mapping of suitable sites in the district.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Renewable Energy SPD's
<b>Mow the grass less frequently</b>	 	<p>Delay the first cutting of the District's road-side verges to allow wildflowers to grow naturally.</p> <p>Reduced grass cutting in District parks to compensate for extreme weather conditions e.g., recent long dry spells.</p>	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Reduction in total number of cuts per annum
<b>Identify how we actively carbon capture</b>	 	Track the Essex Seagrass Projects in the Maldon District e.g., St Lawrence Bay seagrass project.	Medium-term	Planning	Share project results data
		Track the National Trust Coastal adaptation project at Northey Island.			
<b>Support nature &amp; ecology education and research at all levels via the Maldon District Council estate</b>	 	Support and promote the Blackwater Chelmer Nature Reserve BioBlitz event.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Feedback from Blackwater Chelmer nature reserve
		Help the proposed OMD Youth Council develop Climate Ambassadors roles with a focus on nature and ecology.			Nature and Ecology roles established




Show nature we care continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Support sustainable farming - promote ecological methods and local practices that are economically viable, environmentally sound and protect public health		Support the work being carried out by ECC and the North Essex Farm Cluster, which includes farms located in the upper Blackwater area of the Maldon District.  Promote events that are being run by the North Essex Farm Cluster.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Relationship established with the North Essex Farm  Cluster District specific data shared through communications









# Pledge 04 - Be a Council That Leads by Example










We recognise that to ask others to make the necessary changes to their organisations and lives, we must be seen to be leading on making these changes ourselves. By seeking to reduce our carbon footprint, we can offer advice and share best practice to make it easier for others to follow, signposting to other leaders along the way. Table 7 sets our actions to ‘Be a Council That Leads by Example’ 2023/2024:

Table 5 Be a Council That Leads by Example pledge actions					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Identify areas for carbon reduction across the Council estate (existing and future buildings)		Review our existing assets to improve building efficiency. The Council will use the data to develop a carbon reduction checklist to maximise opportunities to decarbonise assets when carrying out repairs.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Production of a carbon reduction checklist
		Provision of an eco-friendly unit at Drapers Farm for the Men’s Shed. The Council will work with the suppliers to make sure the unit is climate resilient and energy efficient, and that their construction has a low impact on the environment.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly until project is finished	Eco-friendly unit provided
		Commission a roadmap towards Net Zero by 2030. This will allow the Council to identify areas for carbon reduction across the Council estate (existing and future buildings)	Medium-term	Planning	Production of a roadmap report

## Be a Council the leads the by example continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
<b>Procure services from companies that demonstrate sustainability and support the Council's net zero carbon ambitions</b>	  	Develop a 'Procurement Social Value Policy' for approval and adoption. Climate action to be embedded into the Council's social value framework.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly until policy is adopted	Production of a 'Procurement Social Value Policy'
		Work with event organisers to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices for events held in District parks and open spaces.	Long-term	In progress reviewed annually	Increase unsustainable practices
		Annual review of the 'Hire or Use of Maldon District Council owned Open Spaces 2023 - Expression of Interest Form' to ensure event organisers are considering sustainable and low carbon options.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed annually	Development of Expression of Interest to include necessary climate action requirements
<b>Upskill and train staff in relevant areas of expertise Upskill and train staff in relevant areas of expertise</b>	  	Development of climate action induction for new starters and as a refresher for existing staff .	Short-term	Planning	Climate action training developed
		Create supporting materials to help staff complete their climate action smart objectives	Short-term	Planning	Crib sheet produced and uploaded to the wellbeing hub
		Developing the 'Caring for our Climate' section of the staff wellbeing hub to provide regular updates on member and staff training, changes in legislation, local projects and activities and climate action events	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Caring for our Climate section of the staff wellbeing hub





## Be a Council the leads the by example continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
<b>Carbon Action performance reporting</b>	 	Review carbon emissions data sources for the District and report annually, including emissions associated with working from home.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Updated District data added to the 2024/2025 action plan
<b>Ensure Council project management processes comply with CAS</b>	  	Continue to review the Project Management Office (PMO) processes to ensure they are in line with the actions set out in the Climate Action Strategy.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Climate action updates to the Council's Project
<b>Support Town and Parish Councils - help them to lead by example</b>	   	<p>Include climate action in our refreshed approach to the Town parish and Parish town council forum.</p> <p>Include regular updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding opportunities;</li> <li>• training opportunities; and</li> <li>• resources available to help develop local action plans and policies.</li> </ul>	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Successful collaboration and communication with Town and Parish Councils on climate action work.












# Pledge 05 - Develop a strong policy commitment to Climate Action

Our policies and strategies define our goals and provide guidance about how to achieve objectives. It is important that our policy reflect our commitment to the CAS. Table 8 sets out our policy commitment for climate action in 2023/2024:


Table 6 Develop a strong policy commitment to Climate Action					
Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Identify areas for carbon reduction across the Council estate (existing and future buildings)	   	Share the refreshed Corporate Plan (CP) with staff. Specifically, our aims for a greener future and how the CP objectives deliver on the actions set out in CAS.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Staff updated and able to incorporate a greener future into their activities.
		Update the Local Development Plan Planning Policies to include more expectations for net zero e.g., lower carbon in development, walkable neighbourhoods, biodiversity net gain, flood risk protection and water cycle	Medium-term	In progress due 2025/2026	Updated Local Plan produced and adopted
		Influence the updates to the Essex Minerals Plan, Essex Waste Local Plan and Essex Transport Plan so they support local climate action in the District.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Evidence of local Maldon District CAS in

Develop a strong policy commitment to Climate Action continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Influence positive change through the Essex Design Guide and Maldon District Design Guide	  	Continue to influence change through Maldon District Design Guide and refer to the Essex Design Guide for guidance and best practice. Attend Essex Planning Officers Association meetings to gain an insight into Essex wide activities and best practice.	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Evidence of change aligned to the Maldon District Design Guide and best practice
Understand future planning and development impacts, e.g. Greenfield to brownfield land use (farm land used as solar farms, change of status at the end of lease period).	   	Develop renewable energy SPDs for large stand-alone sites and for small developments. To include geographic information system (GIS) mapping of suitable sites in the District.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Renewable energy SPDs developed and included in Local Plan update
Lobby government to change building regulations and provide greater certainty on its energy mix for net zero	 	Continue to feed into ECC responses on national legislation.	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Evidence of partnership working with ECC



Develop a strong policy commitment to Climate Action continued

Action	Co-benefit	Our focused activities	Timescale	Status	Output
Ensure all Council strategies and projects deliver climate action		The Council will continue to review the PMO processes to ensure they are in line with the actions set out in the CAS.	Medium-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Climate action updates to the Council's PMO processes reported
		Encourage hybrid approach to work to reduce reliance on car travel.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Reduction in car use for work
		Review possible environmental benefits/impacts of process improvement works.	Long-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Documentation of environmental benefits/impacts of all process improvement works
		Human Resources Code of Conduct being reviewed to consider various matters including impact on the environment.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Revised Human Resources Code of Conduct
		Develop a Climate Action Policy Development Checklist as guidance for when officers are reviewing policy.	Short-term	In progress reviewed quarterly	Checklist developed

# Monitoring and reporting

The actions within the 2023/2024 CAP will be monitored and reported quarterly through the Council’s Performance, Governance & Audit processes.





# Risks to delivery

Key risk	Mitigation
Lack of engagement by Maldon district residents and resistance to change	Prioritise engagement in delivery through a communications campaign, the CAF, and Climate Action Partnerships
National policy does not facilitate delivery locally/keeps changing	Lobby national government: keep strategy and delivery plans flexible; review regularly; prioritise ‘no regrets’ measures which will yield benefits in a range of scenarios
Lack of political support	Ensure cross-party support; regular briefings/updates
Delays to timeline for delivery	Update on progress and any issues quarterly
Difficulties embedding climate objectives in all Council decisions	Develop new decision-making tools and processes
Market lacks capacity to deliver large scale programs	Work with employers and training providers to develop capacity and skills; fund programs to stimulate the market
Lack of resources to deliver action plan	Plan and prioritise actions to ensure adequate officer resources to effectively deliver these, access training and best practice networks to optimise skills needed for delivery and work with volunteers for delivery on the ground

# List of Figures

Figure 1 The Carbon Management Hierarchy ..... 2

Figure 2 The Climate Action Pledges ..... 4

Figure 3 Co-benefit symbols and examples..... 5

# List of Tables

Table 3 Engagement..... 6

Table 4 Kick the car habit pledge actions ..... 7

Table 5 Create less waste pledge actions ..... 9

Table 6 Show nature we care pledge actions ..... 11

Table 7 Be a Council that leads by example  
pledge actions ..... 15

Table 8 Develop a strong policy commitment  
to Climate Action actions ..... 18





**Contact:** Claire Williamson, Climate Action Lead Officer.  
[caf@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:caf@maldon.gov.uk)