

## **Appendix B – Proposed Top 20 Environment Actions for 2025/26**

### **Theme: Bring Back Nature**

1. Publish a habitat management plan for twenty of the council's public open spaces (such as play areas and church yards) by December 2025.
2. Make meaningful progress on delivering the new habitat management plans by May 2026.
3. Trial the publication (digital and physical) of a family-friendly, biodiversity-rich walking route in one of our public open spaces. This will include a fun printable map for collecting 'stamps' along the route and a Geocache hunt.
4. Following the success of the previous community orchard scheme, commit to planting a further 100 orchard trees in the winter 25/26.
5. Deliver high quality nature friendly development by helping planners and developers cut through the complicated nature legislation with a series of self-help guides.
6. Establish a portfolio of environment staff volunteering day options (1 day per year per staff member).
7. Establish a Bring Back Nature social media campaign.
8. Deliver a publicly accessible new woodland in Bottisham.
9. Family friendly information at Riverside in Ely on what to feed local ducks and swans.
10. Commence biodiversity enhancements as part of the bereavement centre development, including the creation of a wildflower meadow.

### **Theme: Reducing our Carbon Emissions**

11. Implement new waste and recycling collection service for residents from April 2026, which will have a positive impact on our district's carbon emissions.
12. Seek to reduce our energy bills by a third for our public conveniences, targeting a saving of £5,000 per annum and at least 3 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e which is equivalent to about 10 return flights to Barcelona from London.
13. Actively promote the benefits of rooftop solar panels, the costs and savings likely to be achieved, and issues to look out for. Help residents with grants that might be available.
14. Prepare, by November 2025, a detailed step by step plan of how we will become a net zero council.
15. Let's get smart: promoting the benefits of smart meters, and how to get the most out of them.

16. Further reduce our water use in the council's main office (The Grange) by 10%. This would save an estimated 100,000 litres or 500 large baths.
17. Palace Green Homes to install PV panels on all 27 new homes at Arbour Square, Ely development.

**Theme: Adapting to a Changing Climate**

18. Promote sustainable water management, both small scale (e.g. waterbutts) and larger scale (e.g. farmer reservoirs).
19. Manage the water efficiency of the Jubilee Garden fountain, whilst retaining it as a water feature, and seeking to save up to £1,000 in water usage costs.
20. Commence a programme to reduce water use in our public conveniences. A 10% reduction would save over 400,000 litres which is the equivalent to 2,500 large baths. It would also save £2,000 annually.