



East Cambridgeshire District Council

# Our Climate and Nature Strategy 2024 to 2028

At East Cambridgeshire District Council, we are committed to delivering a cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire. The council is committed to act on urgent environmental issues facing the district and the wider world, especially the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis we face.

Whether you are a resident, business or community group, by coming together we can all help tackle climate change, help bring back nature and help communities adapt to an uncertain world. Together, we can create an even better East Cambridgeshire, which is cleaner, greener and healthier for all, forever.

## Bring Back Nature

Priorities	Goals by 2028
To make our own land and buildings as nature friendly as possible, progressively enhancing the variety of plants and animal species.	Put in place long term habitat management plans for all our significant public open spaces, and report progress towards delivering them.
To help our communities, through guidance and financial assistance, to undertake nature friendly projects across East Cambridgeshire.	Provide financial or expert assistance to local communities, through grant schemes such as Pride of Place and free tree giveaways, with a target of helping deliver at least 100 nature related community projects across the district.
Utilise our expertise and legislative powers to maximise opportunities for nature recovery.	Successfully deliver biodiversity net gain for all new developments by partnership working with developers and landowners.
Put in place long term frameworks for nature recovery in East Cambridgeshire, including opportunities for nature-based investment.	Be an active supporting authority for the Cambridgeshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and establish East Cambridgeshire’s locally determined contribution for nature recovery.

## Reducing our Carbon Emissions

Priorities	Goals by 2028
To put the council on a clear pathway to reduce our own direct carbon emissions (such as the fuel we use) to net zero by 2036, and our indirect emissions (such as from the goods and services we buy) to net zero by 2040.	By 2025/2026 reduce our direct emissions by 50% (compared with our baseline year of 2019/2020) and be on track to meet our target of an 80% reduction by 2030/2031. Establish more clearly and comprehensively what our indirect emissions are and demonstrate a clear downward trajectory of such emissions by 2028.
To help reduce the emissions arising from East Cambridgeshire as whole, targeting net zero by 2040 (excluding emissions arising from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), which are a special category of emissions arising from land itself).	Work with our Cambridgeshire partners to establish an effective action plan for emission reductions across the county, and set out East Cambridgeshire’s local determined contribution towards that action plan. Demonstrate a continued reduction in emissions per person across East Cambridgeshire, targeting a 50% reduction on average per person by 2028 (% reduction excludes LULUCF and is for a 2005 baseline. By 2021, we have already achieved a 34% reduction).

## Adapting to a Changing Climate

Priorities	Goals by 2028
To have an up-to-date Climate and Nature – Risk and Adaptation Plan in place, which recognises the challenges we face due to a changing climate.	Establish a Climate and Nature – Risk and Adaptation Plan, followed by an annual monitoring report on progress.
Assist our communities to adapt, through advice and practical solutions.	Use all our communication channels to provide clear, practical and easy to understand advice, helping residents be prepared for severe weather, how to adapt their homes and how to help nature recover. Work with our partners to deliver practical measures, such as warm hubs in winter, cool hubs in summer heatwaves and home retrofit support.
To prepare for the increasing extremes of summer water shortages and winter floods, using nature-based solutions where appropriate.	Reduce the Council’s consumption of water by 15%, and ensure we manage our own land to function effectively during flooding, including our drainage ditches. Help the wider conservation of water, by using our communication channels to share water saving advice and other information.
Have up-to-date planning policies which deliver new homes and businesses that are fit for the future.	Update our Local Plan policies, so that new development will have high water and energy efficiency; be adaptable to a changing climate and provide open spaces for nature to thrive.