

Climate Action Plan 2024-2027

Low Carbon, High Nature

November 2024

A.10 APPENDIX

Foreword

Climate change poses a global challenge, demanding urgent and collective action. Tendring District Council (TDC) acknowledges this imperative. This **Climate Action Plan** reflects a commitment to our local initiatives that complement national efforts. The plan, rooted in principles of low carbon, high nature, and financial sustainability, aligns with the UK's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

TDC has made significant strides, reducing its emissions by over a fifth since 2018/19, primarily through decreased electricity emissions. This progress exemplifies the Council's dedication to environmental stewardship and sets a precedent for the broader Tendring community to amplify its climate action.

The Council's approach to 2027 is pragmatic, aligning its net-zero target with central government timelines, ensuring that ambitions are attainable and grounded in financial viability. By doing so, the Council leads by example and encourages a district-wide increase of climate-responsive measures, to support a future where Tendring thrives as a sustainable and resilient community.

Cllr. Adrian Smith, Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Executive Summary

Tendring District Council (TDC) declared a Climate Emergency in August 2019 and published the council's first Climate Change Action Plan in November 2020, setting out a plan of action for the three years up to 2023.

In November 2024 the Council aligned the date for achieving Net Zero carbon emissions with national Government, currently set at 2050. This updated Action Plan 2024-7 sets out what the council has achieved to date, reflecting on the progress that has been made since 2019; and establishes a refreshed set of actions for 2025.

Our strategy champions the benefits that improving efficiency and reducing waste will bring for our residents. Reducing our collective carbon consumption has the potential to deliver improvements to day-to-day life across the district: from supporting health and wellbeing; protecting our special coastlines and landscapes and reducing costs.

Significant events, not least COVID-19, have had global, national and local impacts in the period since the original Climate Action Plan was adopted – but also shone a light on the power of collective action.

This refreshed plan aims to establish **a renewed, realistic and pragmatic roadmap** for how the council will use its **combined influence, powers and resources** to achieve **Net Zero**. This is what we are doing – to power our services, reduce waste and build nature – and make our council more effective and more efficient.

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1. Introduction

The Challenge

As the impacts of a changing climate increase across the world, local authorities like Tendring District Council (TDC) are taking proactive measures to mitigate its impact and ensure a sustainable future for our communities. Globally, climate change poses significant challenges, evidenced by rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and dwindling natural resources. In response, nations around the world, including the United Kingdom, have set ambitious objectives to reduce carbon emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy.

In 2019 when the Council declared the Climate Emergency, the Council set the aspiration of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Progress has been made in reducing our Scope One emissions since then, such as through streamlining our estate, and further progress has been made in terms of Scope Two emissions, largely down to central Government commitments moving from coal and gas to renewable energy generation, resulting in lower carbon electricity.

In renewing the council's commitment to climate action and updating our Plan for the period 2024-7, the Council asked experts APSE Energy to carry out a high level review of the likely costs for the Council to reach Net Zero by 2030. APSE Energy's report provides the council with a clear evidence base, assessment of the actions identified to date, and identification of good practice that may be applicable from elsewhere in the public sector. Based on this evidence achieving Net Zero by 2030 would require primarily capital investment of £18m. The council's declaration in 2019 recognised external investment and funding as essential for the council's transition to Net Zero. The evidence shows the importance for government to provide additional funding to enable local authorities to make the progress necessary to decarbonise.

At the same time, as is well known, local authority finances nationwide are under substantial pressure, with inflation driving costs to rise faster than revenues. While TDC remains in a stable financial position through prudent management over many years, it needs to make tough choices to remain on a strong financial footing, focused first on its statutory responsibilities. At the time of this Plan's development, the Council is seeking £3m annual savings target on a net £14m budget.

Our plan to 2027

At the national level the UK government has outlined comprehensive targets aimed at achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. Based on the resources currently available, the council's strategy for 2024-8 moves to align our targets with the UK's national objectives to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

The move to achieve net zero by 2050 takes a realistic, value for money approach to responding to climate change. Aligning with the national target means that the Government policy, regulation and funding required to meet net zero will be brought forward to enable the Council to meet what remains a challenging ambition. It also means that innovative low carbon technologies will have time to mature and become cost effective.

This strategy sets out how we will work with the resources currently available to the council, and further actions that would be possible subject to additional funding. We will focus our efforts where we can see reductions in carbon and also reductions in future revenue as a result of investment. The Council's plan is guided by the principles of low carbon, high nature, set in the context of the requirement for financial sustainability. Our Plan is aligned with the ambitions of Essex County Council's Climate Commission, a collaboration dedicated to driving forward climate action across the county.

It is very clear that a collaborative approach is needed to tackle the Climate Emergency: the council recognises the important role local authorities play in driving collective action to urgently address climate change and is committed to continue to show community leadership. In order to do this, it is crucial that we adopt a credible plan of action.

2. Context

The Council's declared Climate Emergency in August 2019 passed by full council. The motion defined a suite of immediate actions to frame the council's proactive response to the Climate Emergency, namely the preparation of an Action Plan to form part of the Policy Framework, with the aim of the Council's activities being carbon neutral by 2030, and called for external funding to support action.

The motion initiated a Working Party to work alongside officers on the preparation of the Action Plan; established a Climate Emergency budget including funding to finance the Plan's preparation; and set out the Plan's expected structure.

The council's first Climate Emergency Action Plan, adopted in November 2020, covered the period 2020-3, with the expert input of consultants APSE Energy. The Plan set out actions and milestones to be taken by the council; alongside community leadership actions, for wider opportunities and priorities for the council's partners and communities it serves across the district, in pursuit of tackling climate change.

Our corporate priorities

Tendring District Council's Corporate Plan 2024-7 puts community leadership at the heart of everything we do. With research suggesting that local authorities have significant power to influence over a third of emissions within their areas, the council recognises both our responsibility and the opportunity of our leadership to drive the transition to Net Zero across the district. This strategy seeks to continue working proactively with partners and empower local communities to work together towards a cleaner, greener, healthier and more equitable district of climate-resilient communities.

The actions set out here will contribute to this goal and the council's corporate aspirations and priorities:

Championing our local environment

- To do what is within the council's control to protect Tendring's important and unique natural landscapes in the face of a changing climate
- Enact holistic measures to tackle both the climate and ecological crises

Pride in our area and services to residents

- Continue to deliver the council's statutory services alongside ambitious climate action
- Consult with the public as part of the delivery of individual projects and actions

Working with partners to improve quality of life

- Using the council's power to enable and convene partners and communities
- Champion the opportunities of climate actions to also deliver powerful health and wellbeing benefits

Raising aspirations and creating opportunities

- Seeking to lead the way in climate action locally, and championing our partners to do the same
- Build local skills in low carbon and green economies to support local economic growth
- Boost local public awareness around the changing climate, the challenges this poses, and the actions we can all take to make our communities more climate resilient

Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer

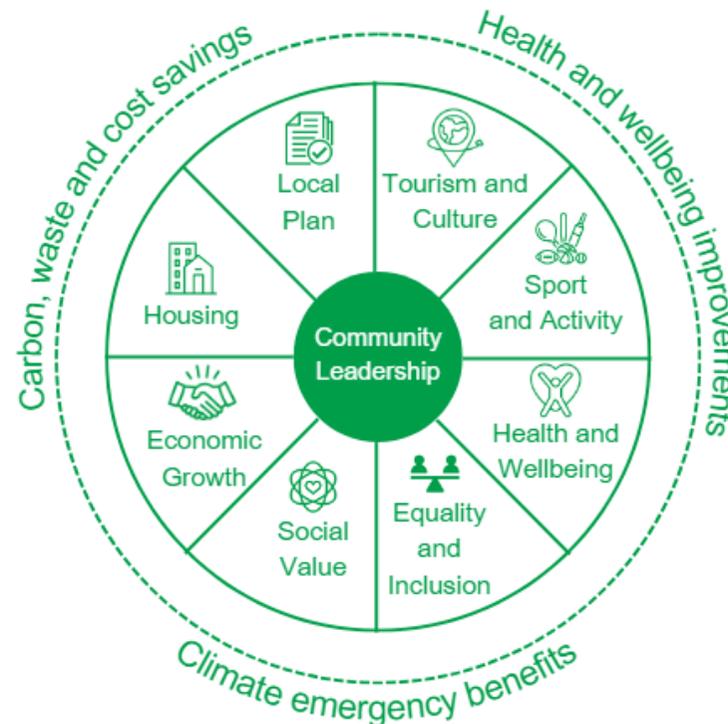
- Work to align other council strategies and activities with our sustainability commitments to harness the opportunities that these present, such as green tourism

Financial sustainability and openness

- By utilising opportunities for funding from central government and private partners

- Continuing to monitor, report on and adjust the council's approach, actions and targets, to ensure that the measures being taken are deliverable and achieve best value

In addition, this document should be considered in conjunction with a range of approved and emerging Council strategies, including the Economic Development Strategy, the Sport and Activity Strategy, and the emerging Health and Wellbeing and Social Value strategies. The actions identified here are mainly taken from these existing strategies already in place across the council, together presenting a significant opportunity to save cost, waste and carbon, and bring health & wellbeing improvements to residents and communities across the district:



Terminology & structure

This Plan adopts the definition of '**Net Zero**', a development from the climate emergency declaration which referenced 'carbon neutral'. Since the declaration, both approach and terminology surrounding climate action have developed further: with 'carbon neutral' increasingly open to interpretation; and a cross-sector, international drive to be proactive in terms of Scope 3 emissions. Accordingly, in refreshing our plan of action for the coming years, TDC have adopted the revised terminology, which is recognised to involve reducing emissions as much as technically and financially possible with remaining hard-to-reduce emissions offset – thereby achieving 'Net Zero' emissions.

In setting out the council's **Low Carbon** commitment, this Plan adopts the structure of **Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions** to ensure transparency and clarity in terms of where the council is able to directly control emissions, and where the council's remit will be to seek to influence other partners and show leadership. The Scopes are defined as follows:

- **Scope 1** emissions are those that come directly from sources owned or controlled by the council. For example, emissions from oil or gas heating systems; operational vehicular emissions; and refrigerant gases from air-conditioning.
- **Scope 2** emissions arise from the council's consumption of purchased energy. For example, this includes emissions made by our energy suppliers in the process of producing the energy the council uses for our assets and operations.
- **Scope 3** emissions exist elsewhere within the supply chain, either up- or down-stream from the council, and though related to our activities are not within the council's direct control, such as emissions from our suppliers, waste disposal and recycling services and council employees commuting to work.

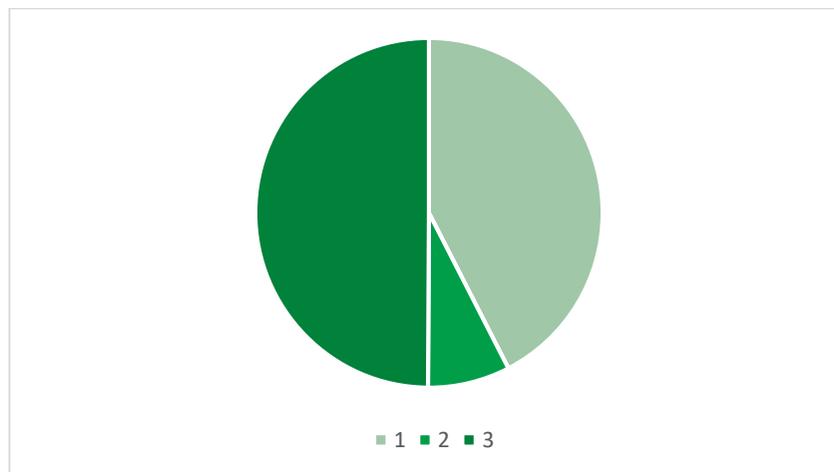


Figure 1 Distribution of emissions across Scopes 1, 2 & 3

Within each scope, the Plan identifies specific **areas of focus**, such as **Transport** or **Homes**. Further themes relating to the council's **High Nature** commitment and ongoing **Climate Action** activities such as **Communication and Monitoring** are also set out. Each **area of focus** follows the same structure, which can be navigated as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Target | - Setting an over-arching target for the theme: for instance, a measurable reduction in carbon emissions |
| The Challenge | - Summarising the particular risks and considerations posed within each theme, which the council needs to be cognisant of, as well as the wider context for action |
| What we have achieved so far | - Setting out what the council has already achieved under the previous Plan period 2020-3 to recognise where we have already made progress and champion others within the district to do likewise |
| Our plans for Year One | - Identifying specific actions which the council commits to take during Year One |

What we have achieved so far

The Council has calculated its emissions since 2018/19 (the baseline year). The data currently available suggests that overall emissions have reduced since then over a fifth. This fall largely attributed to a steady decrease in emissions from electricity. The available data suggests that electricity consumption has reduced by 58% from the baseline year, emissions from electricity have also reduced as the carbon intensity of the electricity grid has reduced annually as more power from renewables is contributed towards electricity generation.

The Council has taken several specific actions to reduce its carbon emissions, as outlined in the October 2023 Audit Report. The council has successfully integrated climate action into its planning across departments, embedding it in the reporting structure, ensuring that environmental considerations are a core aspect of its operations, such as:

- The installation of LED lights at the Council's Sports Facilities, which not only reduce energy consumption but also lower maintenance costs due to their longer lifespan;
- Installation of pool covers in all three swimming pools across the district to reduce energy consumption of one of our largest energy users;
- Completed the Award-winning Sunspot business units and market in Jaywick Sands, with an EPC rating of A;
- Establishing high energy efficiency targets for our new build properties, including Passivhaus equivalent level of performance for a major new masterplan, residential & commercial development in central Clacton-on-Sea;
- Securing funding Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund to install a Building Management System (BMS) and a new Air Handling Unit at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles. These systems are designed to optimise energy use and improve indoor air quality.

These actions demonstrate Tendring District Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and its proactive approach to implementing its Climate Emergency Action Plan.

CASE STUDY: Reducing waste to save cost and carbon from one of the Council's most significant emitters

The period from the first Climate Emergency Action Plan has seen substantial work to improve the district's leisure centres, investing in the infrastructure and energy efficiency measures across the Dovercourt and Walton-on-the-Naze sites. Further works continue as part of funding secured from the Swimming Pool Support Fun. Measures delivered have included:

- Pool covers, aiming to deliver the equivalent savings of just under 130,000 kWh per year
- Replacing lighting throughout the three district sites with LED luminaires, forecast to save almost £50,000 per year
- Increasing monitoring rates of energy usage from weekly to daily to more closely track consumption patterns and improving internal procedures for the tracking and recording of raw data
- Physical upgrades including insulation to plant rooms and pipework lagging to reduce energy wastage
- Upgrades to systems across the two sites including Variable Speed Drives, Air Handling Units and Building Management Systems, with savings forecast to achieve 70,000 kWh/annum saving for Gas and 19,600 kWh electricity savings per year with the new BMS system and a further energy saving of 89,600 kWh per year resulting from the AHU
- Introducing periodic external environmental audits to identify additional measures and support best practice across both centres

Measures to improve operations at the Clacton-on-Sea Leisure Centre are being considered as part of wider feasibility work towards the ambition of establishing an Active Wellbeing Hub, aiming to both substantially upgrade facilities on site and contribute to improving health and wellbeing across the district.

Future savings are compared to the baseline year of 2018/9. The Council has calculated its Scope 1 & 2 emissions and known Scope 3 emissions between 2018/19 to 2022/23 as shown in the table below, with graphic analysis of the data set out in the relevant Scope sections:

Table 1 Carbon emissions by scope between 2018/19 and 2022/23

Emissions	Reporting Year				Baseline Year
	Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019
Scope 1 - Direct Emissions	1,660	1,577	1,455	1,716	1,721
Natural Gas	1,217	1,093	1,024	1,161	1,199
Fuel Oil	268	269	230	331	314
Council Owned Vehicle	175	215	201	225	209
Scope 2 – Electricity Emissions	299	669	654	892	1,045
Total Scope 1 & 2 Emissions	1,959	2,245	2,109	2,608	2,767
Scope 3 – Indirect Emissions	1,951	2,052	1,771	1,938	2,317
Gas – Well to tank emissions	207	187	133	151	167
Fuel Oil – Well to tank emissions	59	59	44	5	5
Council Owned Vehicle – Well to tank emissions	42	52	48	54	50
Electricity – Distribution and transmission emissions	27	59	56	76	89
Electricity – Well to tank emissions	71	174	90	135	168

Water Supply	11	9	14	12	14
Water Treatment	19	16	28	25	27
Leased Assets emissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	310
Employee Vehicle emissions	53	60	40	91	83
Third Party Vehicle emissions	1,461	1,435	1,317	1,390	1,404

Total Gross Emissions	3,909	4,297	3,881	4,546	5,083
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Carbon offset	0	0	0	0	0
Solar PV Exported	0	0	0	0	0

Total Net Emissions	3,909	4,297	3,881	4,546	5,083
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Further Information					
Solar PV Generated	0	0	0	0	0
Degree Days at 15.5 °C (an indicator of heat demand)	1,673	1,891	1,875	1,856	1,757

Total electricity kWh	1,545,057	3,149,552	2,805,971	3,487,918	3,692,656
Total gas kWh	6,664,382	5,969,015	5,566,860	6,312,744	6,516,069

Net Zero Carbon

The Council commissioned a carbon trajectory showing a projection of the Scope One, Two, and Three carbon emissions to achieve a Net Zero target by 2030.

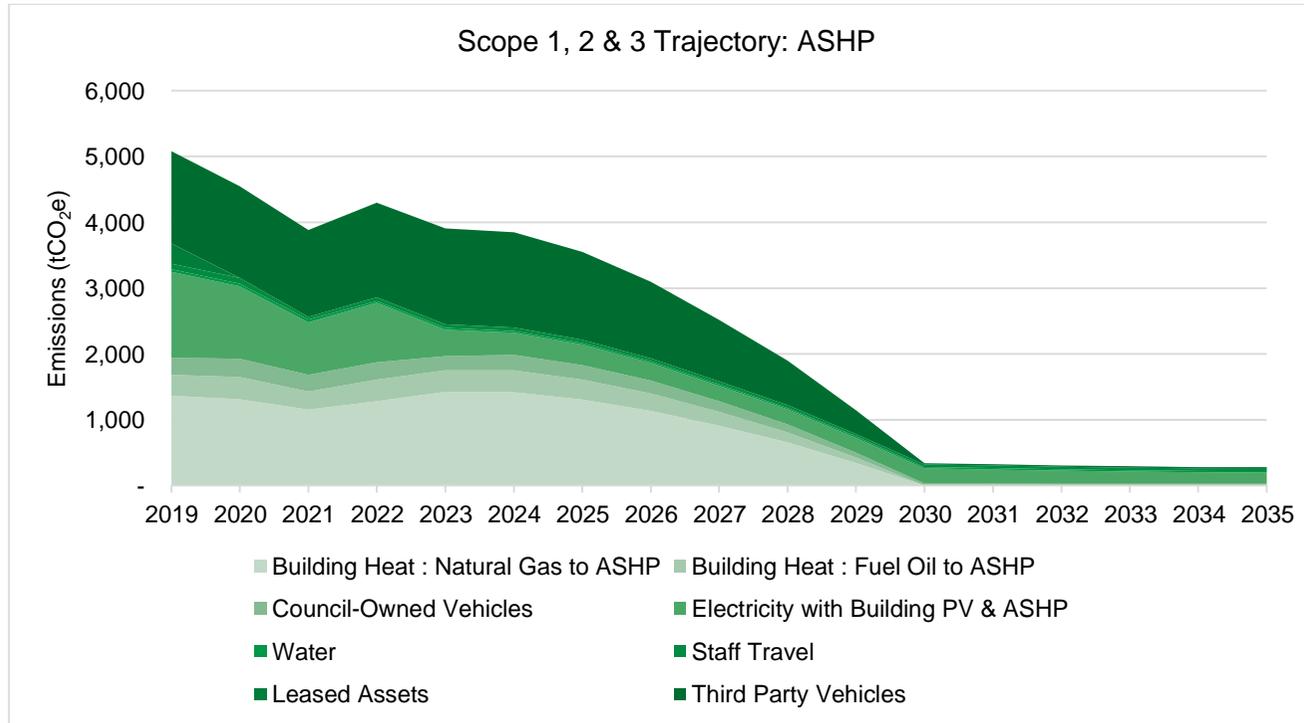


Figure 2 Scope 1 & 2 CO₂e trajectory

The trajectory showed that a 93% reduction in carbon emissions from the baseline year of 2018/19 would be required. To achieve the above reduction by 2030 would require actions for the Council such as: improving energy efficiency of buildings; installing Air Source Heat Pumps; generating power; replacing council owned vehicles; and developing a tree planting scheme. It is estimated that there would be 336 tCO₂e from hard-to-reduce sources that will be unavoidable by 2030 that would need to be offset through a further range of measures.

However, an estimated financial budget of approximately **£17.9million** would be required to reach Net Zero carbon by 2030 through these measures, set against forecast savings of £448,000 in 2030. As a result, the Council could not financially sustainably reach net zero by 2030.

The Council will align its target date for Scope One and Two emissions to reach net zero to national the Government target date, which is currently set at 2050. This change is a realistic, value for money approach to responding to climate change. Aligning with the national target means that the Government policy, regulation and funding required to meet net zero will be brought forward to enable the Council to meet what remains a challenging ambition. It also means that innovative low carbon technologies will have time to mature and become cost effective.

Low Carbon

3. Scope One Emissions

The Council is committed to reducing its direct carbon emissions. These emissions are easiest to monitor and reduce, because the council is in direct control of their sources. There are four categories of Scope 1 emissions:

- stationary combustion, such as boilers;
- mobile combustion, such as vehicles;
- fugitive emissions, unintentional emissions such as from leaks; and
- process emissions, which come from industrial processes.

Based on the available data for 2022/3, Scope 1 emissions consisted of just over 40% of the council's emissions, compared with just under 35% of the council's overall emissions in 2018/9. The increase in relative share, despite some reductions in the council's Scope 1 emissions, is due to the most significant reductions in emissions being achieved within Scope 2, due to the decarbonisation of the National Grid.

Based on the available data for 2022/3, a 3.5% reduction in Scope 1 emissions has been achieved since the baseline date of 2018/9:

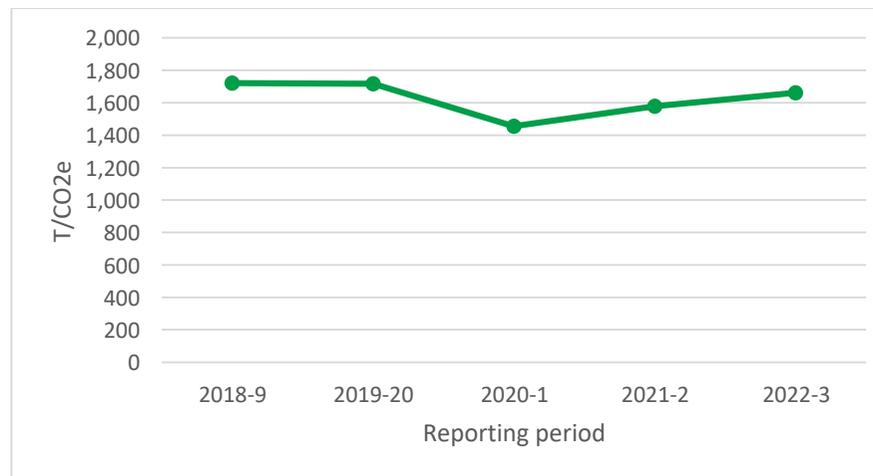


Figure 3 Scope 1 reduction since baseline year

The relative share of the council's Scope 1 emissions for the data available for 2022/3 shows 89% of the emissions resulting from the council's estate, with the remaining from our vehicle fleet:

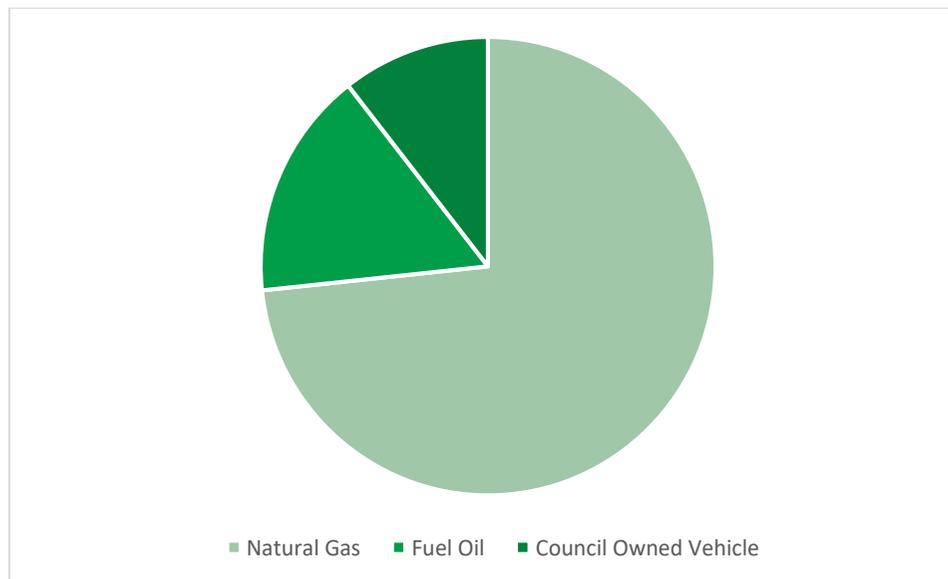


Figure 4 Relative make-up of Scope 1 emissions

The council's main areas of focus within Scope One emissions are:

- **Our buildings:** working to boost energy efficiency and climate resilience through a low carbon estate
- **Our vehicles:** transitioning to a low-to-zero carbon fleet

3.1 Our Buildings

Target: Reduce carbon emissions from our buildings from 2,244tCO₂e in 2018 to 229tCO₂e in 2035

The challenge

The Committee on Climate Change recommended delivering a 78% reduction in emissions from 1990 to 2035 nationally, in order to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Reducing energy consumption has the benefit of moving the Council towards Net Zero at the same time as saving the increased costs of energy.

The council has a short list of energy intensive buildings. The three leisure centres (electricity, gas and oil) and the Town Hall (electricity and gas) use most energy.

Street lights that TDC own and Pier Avenue Office are high electricity users.

In addition the communal areas in council housing is a high energy user. Mary's Court has high electricity usage, and Groom House, Greenfields, Crooked Elms, Vyntoner House and Mead House have high gas usage.

What we have achieved so far

- The Council has reduced the size of its estate, closing the Weeley Offices, which included an oil fired boiler.
- Energy audits have been commissioned for the most significant council assets including the Town Hall and leisure centres, identifying a range of measures through which the energy efficiency could be improved at each site;
- We have also made our estate more efficient, for example improving operation of the Town Hall, and building new buildings with a high energy efficiency, such as the EPC rated A Sunspot in Jaywick Sands.

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce our Scope 1 emissions through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Making building upgrades to Clacton Leisure Centre, including feasibility study for identify future proposals for the site in the context of the proposed Active Wellbeing Centre;
- Completing a performance audit of the Council's assets, including both corporate estates and Housing Revenue Account, with a gap analysis of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) and related recommendations reports;

- Continuing to monitor and appraise the operational effectiveness of the Council's estate and making further efficiencies where possible (ongoing action).

CASE STUDY: Removing the barriers to create a landmark of social sustainability

The Council recently delivered The Sunspot, a landmark, purpose-built business centre on the seafront at Jaywick Sands, offering 24 affordable units designed to support local entrepreneurs taking their first steps, start-ups looking to grow or established businesses looking to expand. The centre has already proven a significant success, hosting a diverse range of local organisations, with multiple businesses having already upgraded into larger units due to the sustained growth they achieved since arriving, in the year since the centre launched.

A high level of energy performance in the building helps to reduce the barriers for local residents starting and scaling businesses, by reducing the running costs of premises through measures including:

- A passively designed and fabric-first approach to carbon reduction for operational carbon, ensuring that the orientation, layout, design and construction technology used passively reduces the amount of carbon needed to heat and light spaces, as well as lowering the energy required to maintain the building;
- Windows designed to be the right size for daylighting and views without causing overheating and avoiding need for mechanical air handling and/or air conditioning, further supporting by designed-in solar shading;
- Airtightness reduces heat losses in the cooler seasons and high insulation performance is specified, utilising mineral wool insulation which has a relatively low embodied carbon when compared with XPS or PIR;
- Low energy fixtures and fittings including: metering to all units, which has been shown to be very effective in driving down resource usage; internal and external LED light fittings throughout;
- Design for climate adaptation, such as the hotter summers and wetter winters likely in the coming decades, using high levels of insulation, pale cladding and solar shading to reflect excess heat; and robust structure & drainage including flood resilient building fabric and services;
- All-electric services powered by renewable sources and incorporating ASHP as the primary heat source;
- Demountable steel frame allowing recycling or reuse at end of life, alongside mechanically fixed sheet cladding;
- Community garden provides biodiversity benefits such as native planting and aggregate landscapes supporting invertebrates;
- Low running costs delivered by the Fabric First approach taken have supported organisations to deliver social value such as community programming, supporting social sustainability as well as climate action.

3.2 Our vehicles

Target: Reduce emissions from the vehicle fleet from 209tCO₂e in 2018 to 25tCO₂e

The challenge

Four percent of the Council's carbon emissions come from our fleet of 61 vehicles. The vehicles are required by services including Open Spaces, Building Services, and Beach Patrol.

The challenge to electrification is the power, range and cost of electric vehicles compared to petrol and diesel vans and trucks.

The waste fleet accounts for a 37% of the overall emissions from the Council across all scopes; as it is contracted out, it is a major contributor to the council's Scope 3 emissions and covered in that later section.

What we have achieved so far

- The Council has already purchased four electric vehicles, making 2% of our fleet electric, which exceeds national standards.
- Budgets have been allocated internally to facilitate rolling out EV charging points across the Council's assets, commencing with the Town Hall, to support further conversion of the fleet.

Our plans for Year One

Over the course of this Action Plan period, the Council will continue to work to reduce emissions from the vehicular fleet. No specific deadlines are identified for 2025.

4. Scope Two Emissions: Electricity

Sometimes referred to as indirect emissions, Scope Two relates to emissions released as part of the production of electricity used by the council. This can be reduced through moving away from electricity generated by fossil fuels, such as by using renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

Based on the data available for 2022/3, Scope 2 emissions made up just under 8% of the council's overall emissions, reduced from just over 20% in the baseline year.

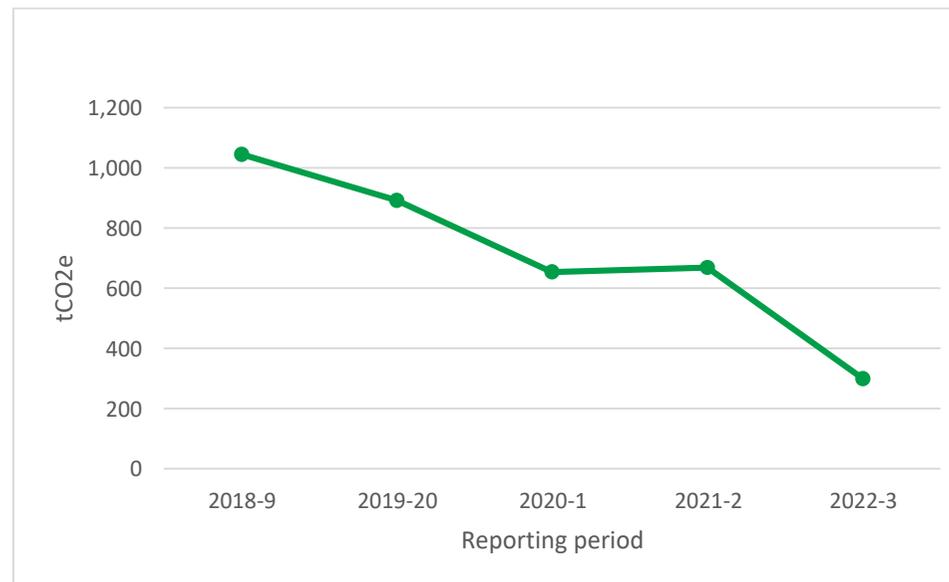


Figure 5 Reduction in Scope 2 emissions since baseline year

Target: Shift towards the purchase of 100% renewable energy

The Challenge

One of the major opportunities for the Council's move towards Net Zero is reduction in carbon within the electricity supply, as the country moves from fossil fuels to renewables with energy generation. The council must balance potential savings in emissions with achieving best

value for money and financial responsibility as part of its statutory duties; as the National Grid progresses towards decarbonisation this will support the council to reduce Scope 2 emissions.

What we have achieved so far

- To date, this has led to a 300 tonne fall in Carbon emissions from the Council;
- The Council continues to engage proactively with green energy projects, such as the range of new offshore wind farms currently under development of the coast of north-east Essex;

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce our Scope 2 emissions through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Complete adoption of council framework and shift all contracts onto single supplier to enable improved data collection and monitoring, alongside reduced costs;
- Support National Grid decarbonisation where appropriate (ongoing action);
- Engage with government on national schemes that support decarbonisation of the grid including National Strategic Infrastructure Projects (ongoing action).

5. Scope Three Emissions: Carbon through our supply chain

Scope Three are the remaining indirect emissions that occur beyond the direct control of the Council, but within the value chain of the Council's operations. Examples include emissions resulting from our staff working from home, commuting emissions, and the emissions of our suppliers and contractors.

Reporting on Scope 3 emissions is relatively new and methodologies for accurate monitoring and calculating are still emerging. As a result, care needs to be taken when comparing the annual totals as the data sources may have some variance between different years as this field continues to develop. The figures reported within this Plan are based on data sources that the council can accurately obtain, for instance: emissions from the waste fleet; staff commuting mileage; and where available data for council homes.

The Council does not have direct control over these emissions but can use its influence through policy and procurement to reduce these emissions.

Despite the challenge in tackling these indirect emissions, the available data indicates a 15% reduction in emissions has been achieved so far against the baseline year.

Nevertheless, Scope Three should remain a key focus for Climate Action within this period, now representing half of all the council's emissions and accounting for the largest share of emissions of all the Scopes.

Our main areas of focus to reduce Scope Three emissions are:

- **Homes in the district**, including council homes, owned and privately rented homes
- **Transport in the district**, including staff travel to work

CASE STUDY: Innovative steps forward in sustainable construction through reducing embodied carbon

Clacton-on-Sea based business Dura Composites have received industry recognition for their work delivering innovative recyclable composite solutions: including the 2024 Kings Award for Innovation for their d² range. This local success demonstrates the potential for the wider Tendring district and council partners to contribute to reducing waste, costs and carbon.

Providing an alternative to traditional GRP grating, the patented d² range re-engineered the material to reduce weight and carbon without compromising performance. This reduction in weight results in a 33% improvement in carbon efficiency, which has been calculated to have saved over 5 million kilograms of CO₂ and have reduced waste to landfill since the product's release. Offsetting the equivalent amount of carbon saved by the design require the planting of over 700,000 trees plus ten years of their growth, which would cover an area of over 300 football fields.

5.1 Reduce carbon emissions from homes in Tendring

Target: All homes within the district to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate of 'C' or above

The Challenge

In April 2020 there were approximately 70,200 homes in the Tendring area.

To ensure the UK remains on track to reach national goals for net zero by 2050, all homes must achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'C' or above. Most homes, however, currently fall within band 'D'¹.

The main change required is to move away from fossil fuel heating in homes, by phasing out new gas boilers by 2035.

The district has a slightly lower rate of high performing properties when compared nationally:

	Domestic		Nationally
	Tendring		
A	237	0%	0%
B	8087	12%	12%
C	15556	22%	31%
D	27524	39%	38%
E	13167	19%	15%
F	3879	6%	4%
G	1437	2%	1%
Total	69887		

	Non-domestic		Nationally
	Tendring		
A+	13	0%	0%
A	95	3%	3%
B	364	12%	14%
C	862	29%	30%
D	839	28%	28%
E	446	15%	15%
F	176	6%	4%
G	178	6%	5%
	2973		

¹ Retrofitting the UK's Housing Stock to Reach Net Zero, Energy Saving Trust

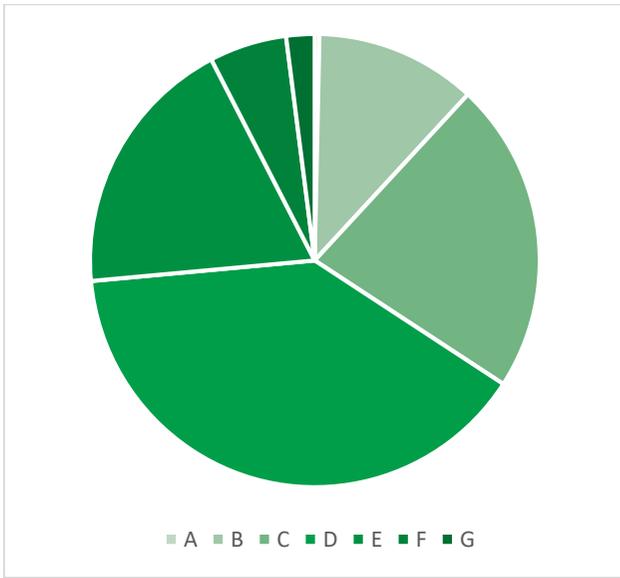


Figure 6 Distribution of Domestic EPC certificates within Tendring District

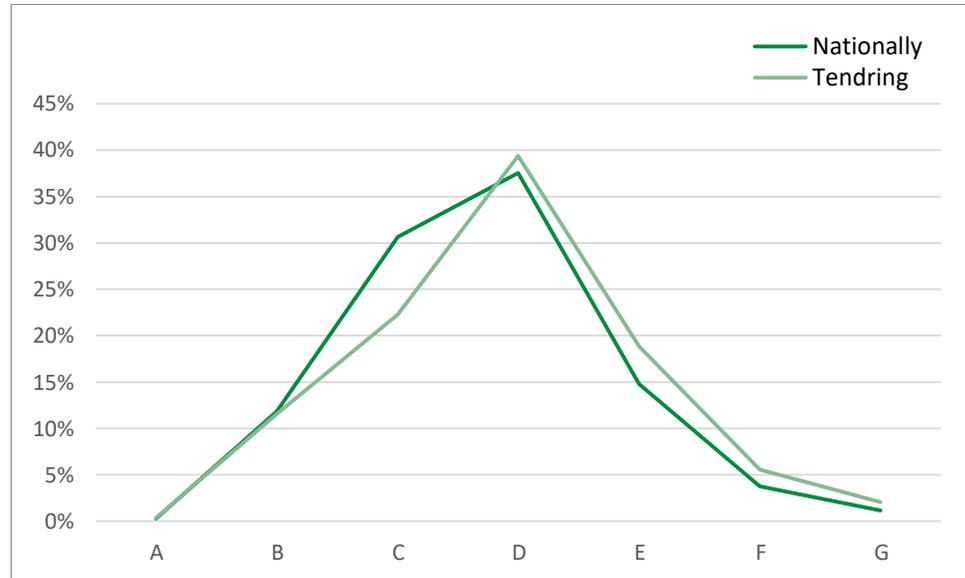


Figure 7 Comparison between Tendring district and national distribution of Domestic EPC rating

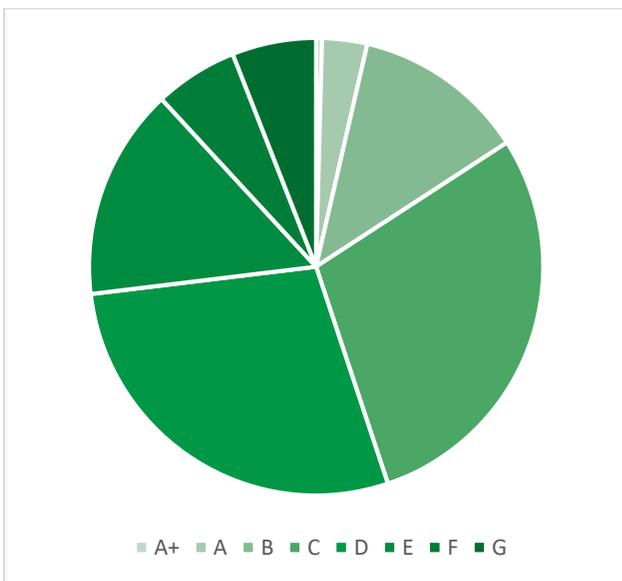


Figure 8 Distribution of Non-Domestic EPC certificates within Tendring District

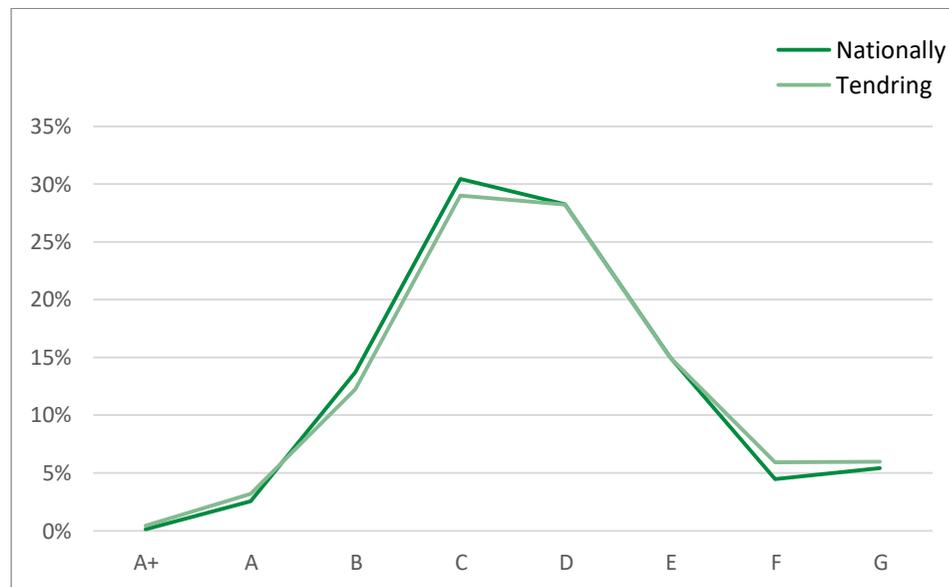


Figure 9 Comparison between Tendring district and national distribution of Non-Domestic EPC rating

What we have achieved so far

- The Council has supported residents to apply for government funding to retrofit homes through promoting national funding opportunities such as the Renewable Heat Incentive, through which 45 fully accredited Renewable Heat Incentive schemes took place within the district, with an installed capacity of 19MW
- We are supporting Essex County Council to deliver national funding schemes, The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS)
- The Council has put planning requirements in place for new homes, aligning requirements with the Building Regulations to allow for uplift in sustainability and performance requirements during this period.

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce emissions from homes across the district, primarily through improving the efficiency and performance of homes, through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Continue the work of dedicated environmental health officers as part of the Jaywick Healthy Homes Initiative Phase 1, to tackle poor housing and improve residents' quality of life in Jaywick Sands;
- Capitalising on funding for a dedicated officer to tackle fuel poverty across the district including working to reduce energy wastage and promoting sustainable warmth;
- Delivering the Jaywick Sands Energy Hub in collaboration with Citizens Advice Tendring (ongoing action);
- Setting a high aspiration for energy efficiency in new homes, including reviewing policy as part of the updated Local Plan to embed this aspiration within the Local Development Framework (ongoing action);
- Promote sustainable warmth including signposting the funding available such as from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (ongoing action);
- Engage with partners to delivery local heat networks, including funding research as part of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community, and engaging with Essex-wide work underway to develop a Local Area Energy Plan (ongoing action).

5.2 Reduce carbon emissions from Council homes

Target: All homes within the district to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate of 'C' or above

The Challenge

The Council owns 3,052, just over 4% of homes in the district².

While there is no set national ambition for improving energy efficiency of homes, the Government previously (2021) proposed a goal for all homes to be EPC C rated by 2035 and the Skidmore Review recommended the date should be 2033.

The Government has provided a limited amount of social housing decarbonisation funding to support retrofit of social homes EPC rated G-D, which requires 50% matched funding. The most recent round was £80m, the equivalent of £18 for each of the 4.4m social homes in the country.

The Council is responsible for heating and lighting the communal areas in social housing which sits within our Scope 1 emissions, as set out above and the Council will carry out feasibility studies on how to decarbonise these schemes.

What we have achieved so far

- Tendring's Housing Strategy 2020-5 identifies improvements to existing housing stock as a key priority, and recognises the importance of energy efficiency for both climate and resident welfare, including enforcement on private rented accommodation where necessary;
- The council maintains an annual Housing Investment Programme which includes both work on individual properties and estate environmental improvements³;
- Alongside these works the council is working to conduct an audit of the housing stock to gather up to date information on condition issues including condensation and provide support to tenants in measures to reduce risk of damp.

Our plans for Year One

Looking specifically at the Council's housing stock, during 2025 we commit to:

- Review our Housing Investment Programme to identify available match funding and increase the council's readiness to access central funding and delivery decarbonisation works;

² A Guide to Council Accommodation, Tendring District Council, 2020

³ Housing Strategy 2020-5, Tendring District Council

- Maintenance programmes to reduce carbon emissions from properties (ongoing action);
- Communication and engagement with residents to promote behaviour change (ongoing action).

CASE STUDY: Landmark low carbon council-led regeneration

In 2023, Tendring District Council secured significant funding to deliver a range of regeneration projects within the district, including Carnarvon Terrace: a mixed-use masterplan on a large parcel of land to the east of the town centre. The regenerated site will provide new affordable housing, mixed-use spaces targeting a range of civic uses and extensive new soft landscaping and public realm, as well as re-providing car parking provision within a new structure.

The scheme, due for delivery by autumn 2027, seeks to deliver a high level of sustainability and climate positive measures, as well as delivering on the council's commitment to Community Leadership – championing other partners within the district to match these aspirations.

The low energy building design approach will deliver better construction quality, protection against fuel poverty, improved comfort and wellbeing, closing of the gap between predictions and actual performance, lower repair and maintenance costs.

The following measures are part of the designs for Carnarvon Terrace:

- Fabric-first approach to deliver a high level of energy performance of the built fabric, reduce energy wastage and improve residents' health & wellbeing;
- Landscape-led approach delivering substantial gains in ecology, biodiversity and habitat creation, incorporating sustainable drainage and referencing local landscape ecologies, native & naturalised species;
- Fossil fuel free development with no new natural gas installations on site utilising highly efficient Air Source Heat Pumps in place of gas boilers and local energy generation in the form of solar PV;
- Conscious of embodied carbon with material palettes considered for emissions and local procurement opportunities;
- Supporting low carbon and active travel through provision of EV charging and cycling infrastructure, and improving pedestrian links;
- Low consumption fixtures and fittings including LED lighting and low-flow sanitaryware to reduce energy and water consumption.

5.3 Travel in Tendring

Target: percentage reduction in district-wide transport emissions

The Challenge

Petrol and diesel cars and other road vehicles make up the vast majority of transport emissions, which contribute 4% of the district's emissions.

As seen nationally, car mileage dropped significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, however across Essex it has now resumed pre-COVID levels and further increases are likely in the coming years.

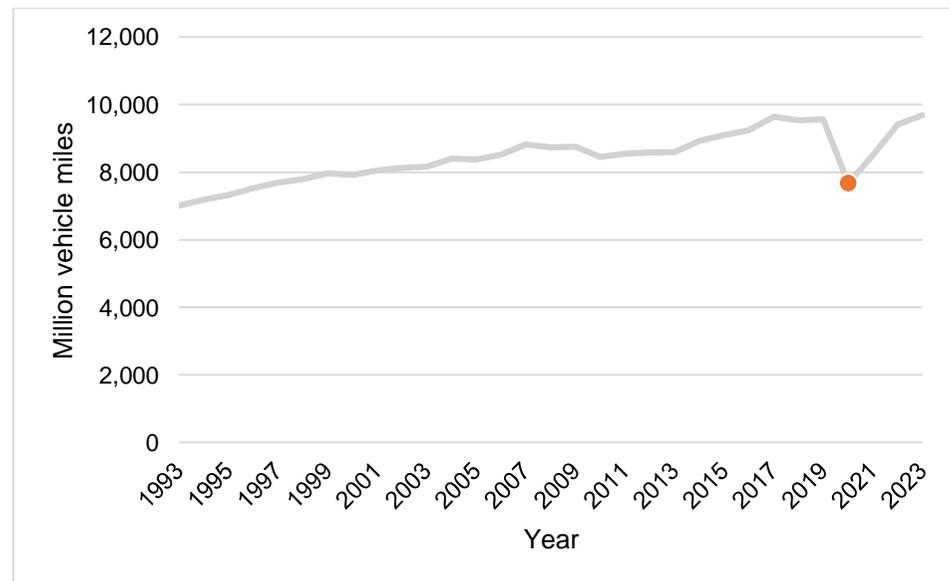


Figure 10 Change in annual vehicle miles across Essex⁴

Based on available data from Department for Transport, the East of England region has one of the highest rates of cycling in the United Kingdom, measured by billion vehicle miles.⁵

⁴ TRA8901 Motor vehicle traffic (vehicle miles) by local authority in Great Britain, Department for Transport, May 2024

⁵ TRA0403: Pedal cycle traffic (vehicle miles) by region and country in Great Britain, annual from 1993, Department for Transport, May 2024

What we have achieved so far

- The Council has delivered new cycle and EV infrastructure, including cycle parking and charging points, such as at Orwell Place
- We have worked with partners to deliver active travel schemes to help people avoid car usage, such as Pedal Power, alongside ongoing work on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan;
- In partnership with Sustrans, the Council has supported the establishment of National Cycle Network Route 150, which runs from Frinton-on-Sea south, including extending the route from Clacton-on-Sea to Jaywick Sands
- 2024 saw the revival of Tour de Tendring, a community event which saw almost 300 cyclists join 60- and 20-mile circular routes throughout the district
- Other events celebrating active lifestyles and travel during 2024 have included free swimming events at Dovercourt Bay, and the Skatepark Jam, organised by Maverick Skateparks and Harwich Town Council, at the neighbouring Harwich and Dovercourt Skatepark
- The Council has supported Beat the Street, a free community game incentivising residents to join teams and be active around their town to find and earn points towards prizes, which saw thousands of participants
- The Council is investing in town centres to make access to amenities easier without a car

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce transport emissions across the district through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Improved cycle infrastructure and signage, continuing investments to facilitate cycling within the district including new bicycle stores facilitated by Pedal Power and improved signage;
- Include Social Value Benefits of contracts with Council (ongoing action);
- Support local business growth through provision workspace and business support (ongoing action);
- Deliver measures to support success of town centre (ongoing action);
- Support active travel through the planning service (ongoing action).

CASE STUDY: Tackling deprivation and building access to skills through active transport

In collaboration with partners including Sport England and Essex County Council Tendring District Council has delivered Pedal Power, a pilot community-based free bike scheme, in Clacton, Jaywick Sands and Harwich & Dovercourt.

Recognising that the cost of a bike can be a key barrier to some residents when it comes to both active travel and access to work & skills, around 1200 bikes have been given away to residents to support them to become more active.

Since June 2021, Essex Pedal Power has been giving out free new bikes to eligible residents in Clacton and Jaywick, and launched in Harwich in Summer 2023. These distinctive orange bikes can now be seen being ridden all over Tendring, as riders enjoy the benefits of keeping fit and enjoying the countryside. The bikes carry trackers which provide anonymised data of popular routes and locations, which continues to support the council in delivering improved cycle infrastructure where it's most needed across the district.

This project is a key example of the wider benefits that can be delivered by climate positive actions above and beyond reducing carbon: a bike can be much more than an alternative to a car, for some a new bike means a way to get active, for others it could be the only way they can get to work or visit family.

Since launching the scheme in Clacton and Jaywick Sands there is an average of: 1,130, cycle rides; Between 8 and 9 cycle rides per rider; and 2.4km cycled each trip, per rider. Statistics show that riders have increased their life satisfaction score, decreased their anxiety score, and significantly decreased their car journeys.

5.4 Travel to work

Target: Reduction in car mileage across council staff

The Challenge

The Council has 570 staff with over 700 including casual staff. Most staff live within the district. Reducing the number of journeys to and from work helps to reduce carbon emissions from travel.

Though defined as Scope 3 emissions, this is the easiest area of transport emissions for the Council to influence within the district, such as through working with staff to develop mutual support and shared travel, which can also offer a range of other benefits.

Monitoring in 2024 of work-related mileage, gathered through Staff Mileage and Subsistence reporting, suggests approximately 500,000 miles undertaken in the course of Council business, including Beach Patrol and other key services.

What we have achieved so far

- Commuting came to an end during the COVID lockdowns. The return to work at Tendring has seen office staff come into work 3 days a week, reducing the overall need for travel;
- Further, the Council has continued to live stream its committee meetings, which has reduced the need to travel to attend in person.

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce transport emissions from our team travelling to and from work, through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Support staff to cycle to work, such as Cycle to Work scheme;
- Engage with staff to offer the opportunity of lift sharing (ongoing action);
- Promoting working from home and reducing travel through virtual meetings and events (ongoing actions).

High Nature

6. Care for the environment

6.1 Less waste, more recycling

Target: percentage reduction in non-recyclable waste

The Challenge

In 2018, 44.7% of the waste collected from households in England was recycled, reused or composted. This equates to 394kg of waste generation per person per year, of which 176kg was recycled, composted or reused. (Govt Waste Management Plan p20)

The East of England has the lowest rate of increase in recycling regionally across the UK⁶.

What we have achieved so far

- Recognising the importance of recycling to reduce waste and emissions both from the council and partners, the Council is currently reviewing its waste contract ahead of a decision in 2026 on the future operation of the service, when the current contract ends, to provide best value and the best service for our residents;
- In 2023 the Council's Democratic Services agreed to go paperless, so that agendas are no longer printed for all members of Cabinet and Council;
- During the office transformation, the Council introduced recycling bins to its main offices;
- The Council cut single use plastic from its main buildings and theatre. For example theatre goers can take reusable plastic cups into the auditorium and drop them off as they leave, and the Council takes glassware, cups and cutlery to use at events.

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce waste across the district through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Review council offices' waste contracts, requiring the contractor to measure the volume of all waste streams collected;
- Work with key partners to promote single use schemes, including Clacton Pier and other key local partners (ongoing actions).

⁶ Statistics on waste management by local authorities Figures and Tables Dataset, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2022/3

CASE STUDY: Taking a proactive approach to reducing waste from the Prince's Theatre, the district's key Council-run cultural and community venue

In recent years, the Theatre team have adopted a wide range of measures and interventions to significantly reduce waste, including:

- The Theatre now uses only re-usable cups instead of disposable ones for cold beverages including full and half pints, and all coffee cups are now free of plastic linings, to ensure recyclability. Straws are made from vegetable matter and fully compostable;
- Velcro straps have replaced using single-use cable ties, ensuring the materials can be used multiple times and avoiding unnecessary plastic waste;
- The amount of PVC tape used on lighting bars has been reduced, as re-usable bungees are now used, the same that are used normally to tie saplings to steaks when growing trees;
- The main auditorium is now lit by over 90% LED lighting for energy efficiency;
- The dressing rooms will soon be refurbished, which will include backstage areas being lit by LED and all lights will either be on a timer (around the mirrors) or PIR (movement sensors) to reduce unneeded lighting and resultant energy consumption, to further improve efficiency;
- All used PVC banners are collected and distributed to local organisation Unsealed, based less than 5 minutes from the Theatre, for upcycling;
- Water heaters used in the kitchens are on timers to save energy, and grease traps have been fitted to prevent grease build-up in the sewer and drainage system;
- The Box Office encourages E-Tickets and QR codes to minimise printing and have now made our tickets have an 'add to wallet' function for mobiles;
- Brochures (4000+ annually) are posted out on clear bags which are made from vegetable starch and are fully compostable;
- Environmentally friendly cleaning products and chemicals are sourced wherever possible.

6.2 Nature recovery and biodiversity

Target: Become Nature Positive and contribute to thriving nature by 2050

The challenge

There is a reciprocal relationship between climate change and habitat loss; at the same time, nature recovery is one of our key opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as by sequestering carbon and providing shade & cooling. The Environment Act 2021 sets out new statutory duties on nature recovery.

Tendring district is home to a variety of unique and special landscapes, including three RAMSAR sites and a constellation of national and local nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites. The district is also home to substantial food-growing agricultural land, essential for future food security, but with the potential to contribute to local nature depletion and pollution in particular of local water bodies. Access to trees and green spaces also has measurable benefits for health and wellbeing of the districts residents – as well as its wildlife.

Becoming Nature Positive, as set out within the Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2023 report, means “reversing the current decline of biodiversity so that ecosystem restoration is underway and species are increasing in abundance and fewer are threatened with extinction”⁷.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognises the power of nature-based solutions to tackle the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, whilst providing well-being benefits. Not only this – over half of global GDP is dependent on nature - so a vibrant economy relies on a healthy environment⁸.

Action to date

- Following 2023 government guidance, Essex County Council is developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to work towards reversing the decline in biodiversity and restoring habitats and wildlife
- Tendring’s Local Plan requires new developments have a Biodiversity Net Gain of minimum 10%, in line with the Environment Act 2021
- Tendring’s volunteer wardens have planted in excess of 100,000 trees over the period across both Council-owned and private land
- Funding has been secured for a variety of green infrastructure projects across the district, from public realm improvements in Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, to £0.5m for new green spaces and interventions in Dovercourt town centre.

⁷ Nature Positive 2030, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

⁸ Nature Positive 2030, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to increase local nature recovery, biodiversity and ecology through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Develop a nature strategy identifying where tree planting, hedgerow planting and rewilding can be located across parks and public realm owned by the Council;
- Continue to require a minimum of 10% bio-diversity net gain, with an aspiration for more ambitious proposals from developers towards 20% (ongoing action);
- Planting in parks and open spaces including trees and hedgerows, with native species, including promoting partners to do the same (ongoing action);
- Proposals to create a new Tendring landbank to contribute to local Biodiversity Net Gain.

CASE STUDY: Tree planting

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Tree Council – which Tendring District Council has been a member of since its founding - the Tendring Woodland Initiative Group (TWIG) planted 30,000 trees over the course of 2021. Funded by a range of private and public partners including Essex County Council, Network Rail and local businesses such as Environmental Design Ltd and Silverton Aggregates, the scheme was driven through collaboration from the Council's tree and landscape officer in partnership with local volunteer tree wardens and members of the local community. Over 40,000 trees have now been planted by the council, to contribute to enhancing the appearance and biodiversity of the district as well as sequestering carbon through absorbing CO₂.

7. Climate adaptation

7.1 Preparing for future change

Target: Enhanced climate resilience across district

The challenge

The National Adaptation Programme explains the government's plans to adapt to climate change from 2023 to 2028, including protecting the natural environment, protecting buildings (for example, from hotter temperatures and rising sea level), and protecting public health and communities.

The Council recognises that increased temperatures and more frequent flooding are key changes that residents in Tendring - and the Council - will have to adapt to.

Surface water flood risk is relatively high with all main settlements assessed being ranked in the top 1,000 settlements most susceptible to surface water flooding, and significant levels of flood risk have been identified along the Essex coast and inland along river stretches⁹.

Action to date

- The council's Vision for the district as set out within the Local Plan 2023-33 requires all new developments to account for, adapt to and mitigate against climate change; recognising that the district's coastal areas require place adaptation and mitigation against climate change to be at the centre of sustainable development;
- The local plan requires SUDs on all new developments and promotes the requirement for permeable landscaping for new homes as well as a permeable highway network needs to be permeable;
- Furthermore, the Local Plan's Strategic Objectives include the following relevant objectives:
 - Objective 4 - Infrastructure provision: to ensure that flood defence infrastructure is considered so that future developments take into consideration the impacts of climate change;

⁹ Tendring District Local Plan 2013-33 Sustainability Appraisal, Place Services, 2013

- Objective 9 – Water and Climate Change: to reduce the risk of flooding (all types) by securing the appropriate location and design of new development (including SuDs), having regard to the likely impact of climate change.
- The Council's new build project at Honeycroft, in partnership with local firm Rose Builders, has been designed so all buildings include solar shading to combat overheating inside the properties during hot and sunny days;
- The Jaywick Place Plan has ambitious proposals to redevelop flood management at Jaywick Sands as sophisticated public realm enhancements with a board walk and improved road, alongside existing and enhanced sea defences;

Our plans for Year One

Actions during the strategy period will include:

- Require high levels of climate adaptation in all new developments including incorporating climate adaptation into new council-led public realm works (ongoing action);
- Proactive engagement with Essex County Council and Environment Agency in relation to flood measures (ongoing action);
- All new developments to incorporate SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) to control the surface water discharge (ongoing action).

CASE STUDY: Exemplar sustainable social housing with climate adaptation

The Council has recently delivered new sheltered housing provision in Lawford. The new build Honeycroft has been designed to exceed current building regulations for carbon saving and energy efficiency. All 13 residential buildings will be EPC A rated, with measures including:

- New dwellings set within soft landscaping designed to maximise habitat creation, including areas of biodiversity enhancement with bird boxes, bat boxes, pond and wildflowers; planting native species and retention of existing mature trees and hedgerows on site;
- The communal gardens also include three allotments, providing opportunities for local food growing;
- Water harvesting, Smart Home controls and electric charging points
- Utilising a pre-fabricated timber insulated structural panel system (SIPS), bringing the Modern Methods of Construction benefits of eliminating unnecessary waste, improved quality and high levels of air tightness; combined with a terraced typology to further reduce energy losses;
- All dwellings include solar PV for local energy generation, Air Source Heat Pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery units;
- Material palette prioritising natural and bio-based materials, reducing embodied carbon and supporting end of life, including: cedar panelling, slate roof tiling and timber-based structural system;
- Incorporating design features including roof orientation that maximises solar gain in the colder months, reducing energy consumption, and louvres to provide solar shading and prevent overheating during summer.

7.2 Water use and efficiency

Target: Reduce per person per day water consumption by 20% by 2037-38 from the 2019-20 baseline, and to below 110 litres per person per day by 2050

The challenge

As well as the need for Tendring as a coastal district to enact climate adaptation to ensure resilience in the face of rising sea levels and increasing flood risk from severe weather events, the district has very low rain fall at only 65% of the national average¹⁰ which necessitates the consideration of future responses to water stress. As a result, much of the district is defined as ‘water stressed’ and has to import substantial quantities of water to satisfy existing demand.

The national average of 141 litres per person per day

Provision for reduced water consumption will be made progressively for new housing under planning and building regulations but, as with energy use, bringing down consumption in the existing housing stock will prove to be more difficult.

The council’s target is aligned with the National Government target as set out the Environment Act 2021¹¹, noting that this is subject to change in line with national guidance. A proactive approach will serve a growing population & thriving economy, protect & improve the environment and enhance local resilience to drought.

What we have achieved so far

- The rate of water consumption per person per day is falling within the district;
- The Local Plan requires new dwellings to incorporate measures to achieve a water consumption rate of not more than 110 litres, per person, per day, and promotes the potential for the capture and reused of grey water in new residential developments;
- The council’s Honeycroft development includes water butts to collect rainwater for watering the trees, shrubs and vegetable plots, to reduce residents’ water consumption.

¹⁰ Tendring District Local Plan 2013-33 Sustainability Appraisal, Place Services, 2013

¹¹ A summary of England’s Draft Regional and Water Resources Management Plans, Environment Agency, 2024

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce water consumption through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Completing a Water Cycle Study to understand capacity of water infrastructure across the district and make recommendations for measures to reduce usage and increase water recycling;
- Maintain high aspirations for water efficiency measures in new developments and promote regional and national schemes for rolling out measures (ongoing action);
- Continue to engage with Anglian Water regarding infrastructure and network upgrades in the context of new developments (ongoing action).

8. Our operations

8.1 Communication and engagement

Target: Influence reductions of domestic and other Scope 3 emissions across the district

Target: Reduce the environmental impact of the Airshow

The Challenge

Delivering changes in the council's operations to reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental outcomes can be enhanced with good communication. This is especially the case for the 'Scope 3' emissions in the community, where the main route to change is through influence rather than control.

The council's declaration of Climate Emergency in 2019 recognised the importance of community leadership in the district reducing its emissions and is committed to influence and encourage partners, businesses, community groups and individuals across Tendring to join the Council in striving to achieve carbon neutrality for the District as a whole.

The council works to do this through continuing lead by example by accelerating its own activities towards a net zero carbon position whilst encouraging and influencing action by others in the district.

As well as being a community leader, active community engagement is key to influence and forming an alliance with partners and business to move them in the same direction as the Council and supporting those already active in climate change measures.

Action to date

- The Council has engaged with community groups working to improve environmental outcomes for example PACE in Manningtree. This has included providing funding towards annual Earth festival.
- The Council has shared campaigns from the Essex Climate Action Commission and other stakeholders on social media and encourage attendance at relevant events.
- Council-led awards such as Tendring4Growth recognise the importance of local leadership in climate action through including sustainability measures within the awards due diligence process and the Friend to the Environment category (2022) and Innovation in Sustainability category (2024);

- The council is committed to promoting the tourism and the district by running events, such as the Clacton Airshow attracts around quarter of a million visitors and has an economic impact of £12m. The Council encourages sustainable travel to the Airshow setting up a Park and Ride and promoting the use of the train. This is an opportunity to minimise the carbon impact while promoting the economic impact, and work is ongoing to quantify and offset the impact.

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to embed climate action within our communication and engagement to contribute to reducing the district's Scope 3 emissions through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Updated Climate Change Communications Strategy to promote further community action such as PACE through communication and engagement;
- Develop the Climate Network for council staff;
- Conduct an Airshow Post-event Sustainability Assessment Quantify the carbon impact of the flights in the Airshow;
- Continue to incorporate sustainability into council-led awards (ongoing action);
- Explore additional training (ongoing action).

CASE STUDY: Supporting community partners to reduce cost, waste and carbon

Working closely with Councillors, Tendring District Council continues to support local groups to reduce costs, waste and carbon through a range of grants schemes, including the Rural Prosperity Fund.

Through this scheme, the Council awarded the Point Clear Community Association funding to deliver an Air-to-Air system at Dumont Hall in Point Clear, complementing existing solar panels on site. The grant of £15,000 secured 75% of the necessary funding, the remainder raised by the Association. With energy costs constituting the Association's biggest expenditure, the installation of new heating and cooling system will see both electricity and gas prices reduce dramatically, supporting the Association's important work at the community hall, which sees upwards of several hundred each week enjoying various clubs and activities.

8.2 Monitoring

Target: Improve monitoring of goods and services

The Challenge

As a public sector body the council has mandatory reporting requirements for its emissions. Gathering this information provides an essential evidence base to inform our approach and actions to reduce our emissions and achieve Net Zero.

Due to their indirect nature, Scope 3 emissions are recognised to be particularly challenging to both monitor and reduce, and this field is still developing. The council's reporting to date suggests that, whilst progress has been made gathering emissions data across the scopes, there remains the likelihood that some data is being missed.

Action to date

- The council has conducted annual monitoring for the period since the baseline year of 2018/9
- The council has worked with industry leading non-profit organisation APSE Energy in the gathering and analysing of emissions data to ensure best practice
- Rather than working solely from standard nationwide datasets, which can often have a lag in terms of reporting, the Council are pro-actively directly gathering data where possible, across all scopes, to provide a higher level of accuracy in terms of annual monitoring

Our plans for Year One

The Council will work to reduce missing data and improve monitoring through the following actions in the period through to 2025:

- Explore introducing a policy where suppliers of larger goods and services should provide the associated carbon emissions so this can be monitored and improved;
- Adopt if appropriate methodology proposed for use by North Essex Climate Partnership district councils to support a single regional reporting tool;
- Update a council-wide reporting matrix to establish clear lines of responsibility for reporting on emissions;
- Review expanding existing monitoring reporting from grants to introduce climate deliverables;

- Publish our carbon monitoring (ongoing action);
- Review decarbonisation funding opportunities e.g. each round of government decarbonisation funding (ongoing action);
- Participate in local climate partnerships including Essex Climate Commission Conference and North Essex Climate Partnership (ongoing action).

8.3 Offset

Target: To offset all remaining hard-to-reach emissions to achieve Net Zero by 2050

The Challenge

The Net Zero Trajectory prepared by APSE Energy¹² evidences that the council can expect to require off-setting to achieve Net Zero, due to remaining hard-to-reach emissions following the maximum feasible emissions reduction through the measures set out within this Action Plan.

The current minimum estimate required to be offset annually is 336tCO₂e¹³, based on eliminating emissions across the scope to leave only hard-to-reach emissions, a classification recognised by the industry as effectively unavoidable emissions.

What we have achieved so far

- As part of other projects particularly in relation to nature recovery, biodiversity and ecology, the Council is delivering and supporting interventions across the district which will contribute to carbon sequestration over the coming years, for example significant tree planting initiatives

Our plans for Year One

At this stage the Council does not have plans for offsetting.

¹² Tendring DC Carbon Trajectory Report 2022-23, APSE Energy, March 2024

¹³ Tendring DC Carbon Trajectory Report 2022-23, APSE Energy, March 2024

Reference material

Further reading

Title	Author	Link
Climate Change: Reporting Guidance for Local Authorities	Local Government Association	link
Carbon Policy Study Technical Evidence	Essex Design Guide	link
Tendring District Council Local Plan Section Two: Draft Publication (Regulation 19): Sustainability Appraisal: Environmental Report - June 2017	Place Services	link

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