

5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN FOR SURREY

Prepared by

Dorking Climate Emergency (DCE)

a non-for-profit community group, part of South East Climate Alliance

*This proposed 5-year environment plan is compiled from Dorking Climate Emergency (DCE) group know-how, from interpretation of the impressive Greater Manchester plan (2019-2024) and from the successful Stroud council plan. Throughout this plan emphasis is placed upon the **importance of prompt action**: anything done now will serve to mitigate future effects & costs. We feel this is the most important single concept which is often ignored.*

Dorking Climate Emergency (DCE) feel that existing plans do not emphasise the need for publicity & communications, to ensure that ordinary people and businesses understand the imperative need for action by the Council AND themselves. Both are equally important. A cohesive programme of public education and actioned consultation is also needed.

*The Plan needs to be implemented **NOW**, as soon as feasible, using examples from other areas of the UK that have already gone ahead, and with humility and awareness of the huge importance of these actions.*

*The people of Surrey look to their County Council and Borough/District councils for dynamic and fast-moving **leadership**.*

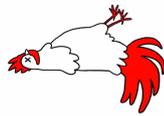
WHAT SHOULD BE SURREY'S APPROACH?

In delivering the environmental aims, we need to maximise the positive impacts on people, economy and places. This will require us all to take new approaches, across areas such as innovation and funding, to tackling the challenges we face.

Careful implementation of the approach is needed so that achieving the aims does not act as a constraint on economic development, particularly as the economy's reliance on carbon is diminished. Taking this approach will minimise costs of services, particularly energy, to our households and businesses. **If we take the actions in this plan, we could all save up to £500 per household per year on our energy bills.** And this saving can be invested in the local circular economy.

Creating a Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector. We can secure early mover advantage from accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy, creating long term employment and prosperity in the economy of the future. At the same time this will minimise the exposure of local jobs, services and investments to stranded asset transition risk and the collapse of the fossil fuel sector once divestment (either voluntary or regulatory) reaches critical mass.

Optimising Health and Social Benefits: We know that environmental actions provide significant health benefits for our population. Implementing this plan will also allow us to address health inequalities and do our part to promote intergenerational equity. Wherever possible, this plan must interlink with prevention and health improvement efforts across Surrey.



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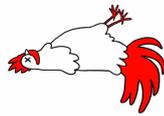


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Efforts must be focused on addressing health inequalities such as the difference in life expectancy between communities. Low income communities are amongst those groups that are more affected by air pollution, whilst other environmental factors such as access to green space and the quality and warmth of housing also have a significant bearing on health.

There are also costs of not acting. For example, extreme weather (e.g. the 2003 heatwave) had a large impact on health services. It is estimated that the health and social care costs of air pollution in England could reach £5.3 billion by 2035 unless action is taken. Failure to act quickly will exacerbate existing national health challenges, place undue financial strain on the NHS, and worsen health inequalities both within the UK and internationally. **If we don't act now, the impacts of climate change could cost us 10+ times more by year 2100 than if we manage to limit global temperature rises in line with international commitments.**



WHAT CHALLENGES ARE WE FACING?

- Challenge 1: **Need to Mitigate Climate Change**
- Challenge 2: **Poor Air Quality impacting Health**
- Challenge 3: **Need to Reduce Production and Consumption of Resources**
- Challenge 4: **Impact on our Natural Environment**
- Challenge 5: **Resilience and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change**

Our Aims

1. Mitigating climate change: For Surrey to be carbon neutral by 2035 or before and meet carbon budgets that comply with international commitments. Read elsewhere for the evidential science behind climate change risk and the climate emergency already underway.

2. Air quality: To improve our air quality, meeting World Health Organisation guidelines on air quality by 2030 and supporting the UK Government in meeting and maintaining all thresholds for key air pollutants at the earliest possible date.

3. Sustainable consumption and production: To put us on a path to being a circular economy, recycling 80% of our municipal waste by 2035 and reducing the amount of waste we produce.

4. Natural environment: To protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment for all our benefit, taking steps to implement and achieve environmental net gain.

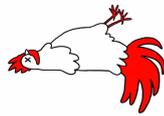
5. Resilience and adaptation to climate change: To be prepared for the impacts of climate change and already be adapting to the future changes from any increase in climate shocks and stresses.

In meeting these aims, we need to maximise the positive impacts on our health and prosperity that these actions will bring.

Our Vision

We want Surrey to be a clean, carbon neutral, climate resilient county with a thriving natural environment and circular, zero-waste economy where:

- Our infrastructure will be smart and fit for the future: we will have an integrated, clean and affordable public transport system, resource-efficient buildings, greater local community renewable energy, cleaner air, water and greenspace for all.
- All citizens will have access to greenspace in every community, more trees including within urban areas, active travel networks, inherent environmental education and healthy and locally produced food.
- Citizens and businesses will adopt sustainable living and businesses practices, focusing on local solutions to deliver a prosperous local and national economy.



Urgent Imperative and Burning Platform

Urgent action is needed to put Surrey on a path to 'carbon neutrality' as soon as possible, initiating an immediate programme of mitigation delivering an annual average of 10% cuts in emissions.

We need to establish a platform for innovation to occur. This innovation & action is partly:

- **Technical** (e.g. increasing the efficiency or effectiveness of existing solutions, regulatory changes, policy enhancement, standards and procedures)
- **Financial** (e.g. devising innovative finance mechanisms to increase the rate of deployment)
- **Social Innovation** (e.g. encouraging the need for fair and equitable transition, behaviour change plus policy and regulatory nudge mechanisms).

Our Energy Supply

Priority 1: Increasing local renewable electricity generation, adding at least a further 50MW by 2025.

- 30% of all households to have the equivalent of a 16m² solar PV system, with an additional 1km² on commercial rooftops or in ground-mounted installations by 2035; with progressive interim targets
- 30 on-shore 1MW-3MW wind turbines

Priority 2: Purchase 100% renewable electricity and 10% renewable gas from our energy suppliers.

Priority 3: Decarbonising how we heat our buildings.

- Phasing out gas boilers so that they account for less than 30% of home heating, with 70% of all heating (domestic and commercial) supplied by low carbon heating.

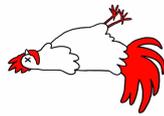
Residents

- Switch to a renewable energy supplier.
- Install renewable energy at your home, where viable.
- Plan now for when you next need to replace your current heating system.

Local Authorities

- Will procure 100% renewable energy tariffs when they are next procured; and when in existing arrangements switch to the renewable tariff options.
- Will complete a full assessment of the potential of our assets for renewable energy and develop these assets (where financially viable) by the end of 2025.
- When replacing heating systems in buildings, will install low carbon alternatives, seeking to avoid carbon intensive technologies (gas, oil).

Businesses and other organisations



- Install renewable energy generation at their premises and partner with community energy groups.
- Switch to a 100% renewable energy supplier.
- Access energy related business support from energy brokers/suppliers to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption.
- Plan now for when they are next due to replace their heating system.

Local policy

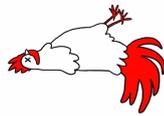
- Establish an investment vehicle to develop assets for renewable energy and deliver renewable energy generation on estate.
- Require 100% local renewable energy generation or green suppliers at new developments.
- Examine the potential feasibility of community/council partnership buying groups to drive down the cost of household solar PV/battery purchase and drive up residential uptake.
- Seek funding to roll out Local Area Energy Planning across SCC to identify which heating solutions are best suited to which areas of the county.
- Identify “Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas” and require an assessment of the viability of connecting new developments to a heat network within these areas.

Other key partners

- Electricity suppliers – lead the transition to a “Smart Grid” to help optimise both the generation and use of electricity and facilitate the local trading of electricity.
- Electricity suppliers – move towards near 100% renewable energy generation sources.

What we need from government policy

- Work with SCC to develop the Energy Transition Region concept to support innovation.
- Accelerate and deepen grid decarbonisation.
- Stable and long-term policy landscape for decarbonisation giving certainty.
- Decision on national strategy for long-term decarbonisation of heat.



Our Transport and Travel

Priority 1: Increasing use of public transport and active travel modes

- Increasing the proportion of trips by sustainable modes.
- Reducing the overall amount we travel.

Priority 2: Phasing out of fossil-fuelled private vehicles and replacing them with zero emission (tailpipe) alternatives

- 100% of all cars are zero emissions (tailpipe) by 2050 or sooner.

Priority 3: Tackling the most polluting vehicles on our roads

Priority 4: Establishing a zero emissions bus fleet

- 100% of all buses are zero emissions (tailpipe) by 2050 or sooner.

Priority 5: Decarbonising freight transport and shifting freight to rail transport

Priority 6: Reduce air travel

Residents

- Ween off 'the must drive' approach to everything
- Increase public transport more
- Increased car sharing (non-ownership of cars; new technology for car sharing)
- Seek work that does not involve commuting 5 days per week

Businesses and other organisations

- Increase in use of video conferencing and modern IT communications to reduce physical travel
- Transition to zero carbon vehicle fleet

Local policy

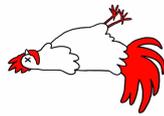
- Integrated transport planning
- Electric vehicle charging point planning
- Clean air zones

Local Authorities

- Increase in use of video conferencing and modern IT communications to reduce physical travel
- Transition to zero carbon vehicle fleet

Other key partners

- Reject the need for airport expansions. Especially based on the inherent changes that will need to be made over the next 10 years (ie. the way that society will have to change).



Our Homes, Workplaces and Public Buildings

Priority 1: Reducing the heat demand from existing homes focussing on initiating a fundamental shift in whole house retrofit by retrofitting homes by a feasible date

- Retrofit measures installed at 50,000 homes per year.

Priority 2: Reducing the heat demand from existing commercial and public buildings

- 25% reduction in heating and cooling demand.

Priority 3: Reducing the heat demand in new buildings (by significant increase in insulation)

Residents

- Get the basics right – including draught-proofing, thermostat control, double glazing.
- Upgrade home insulation – loft, cavity wall, wall insulation and draught.
- Think about whole-house retrofit, particularly if carrying out renovations.

Businesses and other organisations

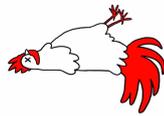
- Sign up to a Net Zero Carbon Buildings commitment.
- Measure, report on and improve the operational energy efficiency of premises, coming together within sectors to do so.
- Consider greener, more energy efficient premises when current or future contracts require renewal.
- Engage with landlords/tenants landowners and tenants over key issues – e.g. data sharing, energy efficiency measures, and green energy.

Local policy

- Develop a SCC retrofit partnership/ accelerator programme to tackle sector development/skills and access to finance/capacity.
- Launch a major new drive to raise standards in the private rented sector, including the development of a SCC Good Landlord standard.
- Investigate encouraging greater energy efficiency through council tax and business rates and other financial vehicles.
- Implement a business support programme for energy efficiency.
- Require zero carbon development by 2050 or sooner.

Local Authorities

- Standardise measurement and reporting of the operational efficiency of their buildings.
- SCC and LAs will aim to obtain an average DEC of rating C or better by 2024 and B or better by 2030 for their public buildings where economically viable (when considering whole life cost, over long term period and accounting for natural capital value).



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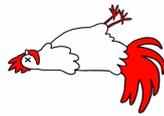


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Other key partners

- Social Housing Providers – commitments to the efficiency of existing homes and to building new homes to net zero carbon in advance of 2028.
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations – continue to work with partners as a SCC retrofit partnership is developed and focussed on helping people and communities.
- Meeting commitments on smart meter roll-out. (especially for electricity for heating and of gas consumption for heating).



Our Production and Consumption of Resources

Priority 1: Producing goods and services more sustainably, moving to a circular economy

- 50% reduction in industrial emissions (30% by 2025).

Priority 2: Becoming more responsible consumers

- Reduce waste production at source by 30% by 2030; reduce plastic packaging by 20% by 2030.

Priority 3: Managing our waste as sustainably as possible

- Achieve a recycling rate of 80% by 2030. *And ensuring that recycling is actually done and not sent to landfill or burnt.*

Priority 4: Reducing unnecessary food waste

Residents

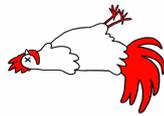
- Reduce the amount of waste you produce and use reusable products.
- Cut down the amount of plastics you use.
- Buy sustainable products
- Look at alternatives to purchasing large items such as lease agreements or take-back schemes.
- Recycle as much as you can
- Reduce the amount of food you waste
- Support local food growing & redistribution initiatives and organisations; avoid unseasonable food products; avoid air freighted products.

Businesses and other organisations

- Make sure sustainability is part of your procurement policy.
- Review your processes to look where you can make efficiencies in design and production.
- Take action to reduce the amount of food and materials your organisation wastes.
- Support local food growing and redistribution initiatives and organisations.

Lead policy

- Establish a SCC Sustainable Business Partnership, including a focus on resource efficiency.
- Explore ways to support innovation that will help the transition to a local circular economy.
- Develop a Plastic Free Surrey campaign, including launching a roadmap and Plastic Pact for the public sector.
- Develop and consult on a Zero Waste Strategy to set out SCC's approach to becoming a zero waste county.



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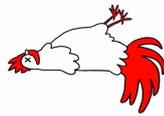


Local Authorities

- Embed environmental sustainability criteria & social value in procurement mechanisms.
- Provide Carbon Literacy for all staff involved in procurement.
- Aim to eradicate avoidable single use plastic on the public estate.
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations – continue to work with partners across these areas, particularly on the development of food, plastic, and waste strategy.

What is needed from government policy

- Further powers and incentives in increase reuse and recycling for both residents and businesses.



Our Natural Environment

Priority 1: Managing our land sustainably, including planting 1m trees by 2024

Priority 2: Managing our water use and its environment sustainably

Priority 3: Achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development

Priority 4: Increasing investment into our natural environment

Priority 5: Increasing engagement with our natural environment

Residents

- If you have a garden or an allotment, manage this for wildlife.
- Visit, spend time and be active in local green and blue spaces.
- Volunteer for projects that protect or improve the environment in your local area.

Businesses and other organisations

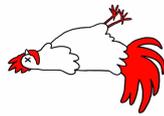
- Manage owned green space or land for wildlife
- Put in place green roofs and/or green walls and/or plant trees.
- Invest in Surrey's natural environment
- Promote environmental volunteering amongst your employees

Landowners and farmers

- Adopt sustainable agriculture practices: integrated pest and nutrient management; non-fossil fuel nitrogen sources; data intensive precision agriculture to enable minimal, highly targeted interventions; less livestock farming
- Adopt good soil management practices that enhance soil's ability to sequester carbon and deliver environmental benefits through future environmental land management schemes
- Adopt agro-forestry practices and re-introduction of hedgerows
- Enter into agri-environment agreements to fund environmental improvements on your land
- Access additional funding to create or restore ponds

Local Authorities

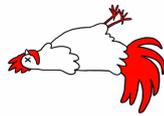
- Build natural capital into projects to maximise the value that the environment brings including on estates and land.
- Protect the most productive agricultural land to allow conversation to production of crops for local consumption. Support the development of horticultural business. Support glass houses and poly tunnels for growing of crops for local production and distribution.
- County of Trees – develop, embed and support delivery of a Surrey Tree and Woodland Strategy, contribute to 1m new tree planting target and increase volunteering and engagement.



- Surrey Health and Social Care Partnership – ensure that their approach to developing a Surrey Population Health system understands the importance of the natural environment as a key wider determinant of health, and seeks to ensure that action undertaken is reflective of that understanding; promote the health benefits of green space and maximise the opportunities to incorporate this into their programmes.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust – liaise with and support delivery of SCC initiatives and increase the number of people engaged with nature.
- Other wildlife and eco groups – identify restoration opportunities, lead developing biodiversity networks, gain guidance and explore application of green infrastructure standards and establishing of a nature recovery network.
- Royal Horticultural Society – inspire more residents to get involved in gardening and improving their local environments, working in partnership with other community growing projects
- Surrey related Water Utilities Companies – invest over £100m at wastewater treatment works and water treatment works to improve river quality and implement further planned improvements in their 2020-2025 (AMP7) business plans

Local policy

- Support the delivery of a biodiversity net gain approach in new development. Especially using planning policy
- Support the development of a Surrey Environment Fund.
- Launch a programme of innovative funding mechanisms to deliver increased investment in nature-based adaptation solutions



Our Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change

Priority 1: Embedding climate change resilience and adaptation in all policies

Priority 2: Increasing the resilience of and investment in our critical infrastructure

Priority 3: Implementing a prioritised programme of nature-based climate adaptation action

Priority 4: Improving monitoring and reporting of climate change adaptation

Residents

- Check if you are at risk of flooding and sign up for flood warnings.
 - If in a flood risk area, make your home more resilient. Advise & support on this is available from Environment Agency.
- Check if you have the right level of insurance.
- In extremely hot weather, look after yourself and neighbours/more vulnerable.
- Use water efficiently and install a water meter. Avoid garden watering during hot weather and droughts.
- Ensure pipes are lagged for extreme winter weather events

Landowners and farmers

- Ensure that decisions on land use reflect the level of current and future flood risk
- Engage with local community enterprises to develop resilient alternative distribution channels, to mitigate the risk of systemic failures in the food supply chain

Other key partners

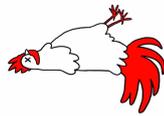
- Thames Water and Sutton & East Surrey Water & Southern Water – deliver over £100-250m of additional investment for long-term resilience projects (2020-2025) and have drought management plans.
- Other infrastructure providers – support the development of a Resilience Strategy.
- Environment Agency – manage government investment.

Businesses and other organisations

- Check if you are at risk of flooding and sign up for flood warnings.
- If in a flood risk area, make your premises more resilient and link up with neighbouring properties.
- Check if you have the right level of insurance.
- Put in place green roofs and/or green walls and/or plant trees. To help 'slow the flood water'.
- Use water efficiently.

Local policy

- Develop a Resilience Strategy, with a roadmap by a specific date.



- Protect the public water supply by: working to restore natural processes within river systems to enhance water storage capacity; setting challenging and ambitious goals to reduce water leakage;
- Undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to ensure future growth aspirations consider flood risk.
- Implement proposals to manage flood risk and the water environment in new developments.
- Develop an Infrastructure Strategy to address key infrastructure challenges relating to flood risk and resilience.
- Develop by 2021 an investment strategy for future flood risk infrastructure.
- Ensure everyone is able to access the information they need to assess any risk to their lives, livelihoods, health and prosperity posed by flooding
- Ensure that decisions on land use reflect the level of current and future flood risk
- Manage existing plant and animal diseases and lower the risk of new ones: work to prevent importation of pest, diseases and non-native species; ensure eradication of non-native plants on council owned or council managed land; work with appropriate authorities to tackle threats to humans from non-native animals
- Consider the development of appropriate indicators to monitor and evaluate how prepared we are for the future risk impacts of climate change.

What we need from government policy

- Continued and increased funding to support the flood risk management programme.

How Will We Track Progress?

SCC will report annually on progress with delivering the plan on behalf of Surrey (not just the council's own assets & estate) against a set of key indicators drawn from existing data. SCC will have a road-map with sign-posted interim targets through to 2050 and beyond.

For commitments made by SCC, Local Authorities (LA's; District, Borough, Town, Parish councils) and others in this plan relating to their operations, governance arrangements will be established to track and report on progress in a coordinated way across organisations.

A list of potential measures is set out in this outline plan.

Doing Things Differently

In order to deliver the environmental vision and aims this plan sets out to close the gap between what is needed and where we are now. We need to take vastly different approaches to the following:

SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY

- Innovation ecosystem to support all firms to be innovative, supporting the creation of new products and services that drive to a better and more sustainable future (examples: Just Park app, GridCarbon app, etc).

TAKING NEW APPROACHES TO FUNDING AND FINANCING

- Long-term sustainable funding models for sustainable infrastructure.
- Developing business models in unproven areas (whole house retrofit; natural environment).

BUILDING ON EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

- Greater engagement and harnessing of community groups focused upon a sustainable future.

SHOWING LEADERSHIP

- A set of commitments from SCC/LAs, plus health and social housing providers, showing they are leading by example.

ENGAGING & EDUCATING RESIDENTS, COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

- Make a programme of carbon literacy available to young people through the SCC communications channels, in addition to commitments on carbon literacy for council staff in procurement in SCC and LA's.

IN CONCLUSION

- SCC has recognised that there is a Climate Emergency.
- We are harming our planet; and there is no Planet-B.
- We have to do something for our children and grandchildren.
- We have to act fast.
- Ultimately that is a bigger issue than the here & now issues of Education, NHS, Policing, Social Care, Homelessness and Immigration. Because those sectors will all be impacted disastrously if there is climate inaction.