

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2024 - 2029

A GREEN COMMUNITY, GREEN PLACE AND GREEN COUNCIL

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BUT IF YOU NEED TO, WE'VE MINIMISED THE AMOUNT OF INK IT SHOULD USE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy sets out East Hampshire District Council's strategic priorities to respond to the climate change emergency.

OUR VISION

*A GREEN COMMUNITY,
GREEN PLACE
AND GREEN COUNCIL*

East Hampshire District Council's vision is to reach net zero within our own operations by 2035 and to support our partners, stakeholders and residents to achieve net zero as a district by 2050 or as soon as possible.

This will be achieved by focusing on mitigation to climate change but recognising that we as a district also need to adapt to a changing climate.

OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

To support our vision, we have five strategic aims:

1. **Net zero council** – by 2035 to be a carbon zero council with climate and environment priorities embedded across all council services.
2. **Green communities and resilience** – reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our communities with strengthened community climate resilience.
3. **Travel and transport** – reduced greenhouse gas emissions from transport in East Hampshire
4. **Energy** – reduced energy consumption from the built environment. Increased renewable energy generation and storage.
5. **Natural environment** – conserved and enhanced natural environment.

OUR APPROACH

To achieve this we will take a three pronged approach, to:

- lead by example, reducing the council's carbon emissions from its own services and operations.
- use our plans, powers and services to shape and influence people's actions
- enable and support others in East Hampshire to reduce their own carbon emissions

THE STRATEGY

This strategy outlines the objectives and key projects under each of our strategic aims, along with the predicated reduction on greenhouse gas emissions as well as a timeline for delivery.

To support this strategy a more detailed action plan has also been developed and this will be reviewed yearly.

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GLOSSARY

Carbon audit
assessment of carbon footprint

CO₂
carbon dioxide

DESNeZ
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

DNO
distribution network operator (an energy company)

Embodied carbon
the carbon dioxide emitted in the production of a thing

EV
electric vehicle

FTE
full-time equivalent (a measure of staffing levels)

GHG
greenhouse gas(es)

HCC
Hampshire County Council

kWp
kilowatts peak (a measure of the potential output of solar panels)

LCWIP
Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan

MEES
minimum energy efficiency standard

Operational emissions
emissions associated with the energy used to operate as an organisation

PFI
private finance initiative

SDNPA
South Downs National Park Authority

Solar PV
solar photovoltaics (often called solar panels)

SPD
Supplementary Planning Document

tCO₂e
tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent - this is a way of measuring greenhouse gas emissions so they are comparable to carbon dioxide on the basis of their global warming effect

Territorial emissions
emissions that occur within East Hampshire's border

UN
United Nations

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 18 July 2019, East Hampshire District Council declared a climate emergency, recognising that immediate action must be taken to reduce our carbon emissions and accelerate the councils' efforts towards net zero.

The council agreed a Climate and Environment Strategy (2020-2025) in August 2020.

This strategy set out two high level objectives:

- a) to reduce emissions in line with the target to be net zero by 2050
- b) to protect and enhance the local natural environment.

Progress has been made against this strategy and a number of successful projects and initiatives have been delivered. (See case studies, page 5.)

A Climate Task and Finish Panel, a cross party group was established by the leader in June 2023. This panel make recommendations and proposals on their priorities from this strategy to the portfolio holder for Regeneration and Prosperity. To support this, they engage and collaborate with key stakeholders, as well as highlight local and national best practice.

The council agreed in July 2023 to bring forward its net zero target for its own operations from 2050 to 2035.

With the council's refreshed approach to climate action, increased community engagement and collaboration and our new net zero target, it is a timely opportunity to refresh the council's Climate and Environment Strategy.

OUR CLIMATE TIMELINE 2019-24



CASE STUDIES



MONTEREY HOUSE

Apr 2023 - Feb 2024

Our new office has played a crucial role in supporting our road to achieving our net zero by 2035 for our operations target.

We have installed 331 solar panels on the roof of Monterey House, which will produce 165 kWp, supported by batteries and six electric vehicle charging points.

Our move to our new headquarters is expected to have a 75% reduction in our office based carbon emissions compared to Penns Place.

This shows how we are getting our own house in order to reduce our carbon footprint and achieve our 2035 target.



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Jan 2023 - ongoing

The Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) supports local projects dedicated to tackling climate change. £250,000 has been allocated to projects up to £25,000 over two years.

Year one saw £180,000 awarded across 21 projects for solar panels, heat pumps, light upgrades, feasibility studies, and more.

The grants will help the district on its journey to net zero.

This shows the impact we can have when we work with local residents and community groups in tackling climate change.

© Tina Knowles Photography



SOLAR TOGETHER

Sep-Oct 2023

Promoting Hampshire-wide solar panel and battery storage scheme to East Hampshire residents in addition to promotion carried out by HCC supplier, iChoosr.

We published promotional bulletins and social posts throughout the campaign, with messages opened 15,300 times generating more than 450 clicks to the scheme website.

844 East Hampshire residents registered (the most in Hampshire) for solar panels. 160 accepted the price given.

This shows the benefit of the council highlighting other funding sources to residents.

1.1 OUR VISION

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East Hampshire District Council's vision is to reach net zero within our own operations by 2035 and to support our partners, stakeholders and residents to achieve net zero as a district by 2050 or as soon as possible.

This will be achieved by focusing on mitigation to climate change but recognising that we as a district also need to adapt to a changing climate.

1.2 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

This strategy will help focus our interventions to align with international, national and our own council's strategies. Climate and environment will be at the heart of our future corporate strategy.



Nationally and internationally, the strategy will help deliver the following policies:

THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

In 2016, 193 countries plus the EU pledged to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C, and to keep them “well below” 2.0°C above those recorded in pre-industrial times.

CLEAN GROWTH STRATEGY

In October 2017, the government adopted the Clean Growth Strategy, proposing measures for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s.

A GREEN FUTURE 25 YEAR PLAN

In January 2018 the government published ‘A Green Future: our 25 year plan to improve the environment’. The 25 year action plan details the actions the government will take to mitigate climate change

IPCC REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in October 2018 which highlights the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2019

In June 2019, the UK government amended the Climate Change Act 2008, introducing a net-zero greenhouse gases target by 2050.

HOW TO REACH NET ZERO

The UK government made amendments to how the 2050 target would be reached in September 2023.

2.0 HOW WE HAVE DEVELOPED OUR STRATEGY

This strategy has been developed working closely with a wide range of external stakeholders and partners as well as across all services in the council, to ensure our aims are reflective of those areas where we can make the biggest impact collectively and are deliverable.

This strategy has been developed by:

1. The council's Green Team to ensure that all services have identified opportunities for climate action, and it is embedded across the council.
2. Using EHDC's operational carbon audit and district wide emission data.
3. Using an East Hampshire-wide net zero evidence base study to provide recommendations to the development of planning policies.
4. Working with elected members such as the portfolio holder and Climate Task and Finish Panel.

We have also worked externally:

5. With local climate change groups and running events to understand our communities' priorities.
6. To understand stakeholder priorities and how these will influence and impact our communities, our district and how we work together.
7. We have looked at best practice both nationally and locally to inform our approach.



2.1 WHAT IS OUR EVIDENCE BASE?

LOCAL PLAN EVIDENCE BASE

A study undertaken by Ricardo on behalf of the council to provide a strong evidence base to support the development of the Local Plan. This evidence suggests that EHDC can respond through planning policy on:

- Embodied carbon
- Transport
- Use of gas boilers
- Grid decarbonisation
- Emissions from other gases

It highlights the following policy recommendations.

- Energy efficiency standards
- Renewable energy
- Embodied emissions
- Sustainable transport

Also, that EHDC can support the wider transition to net zero through

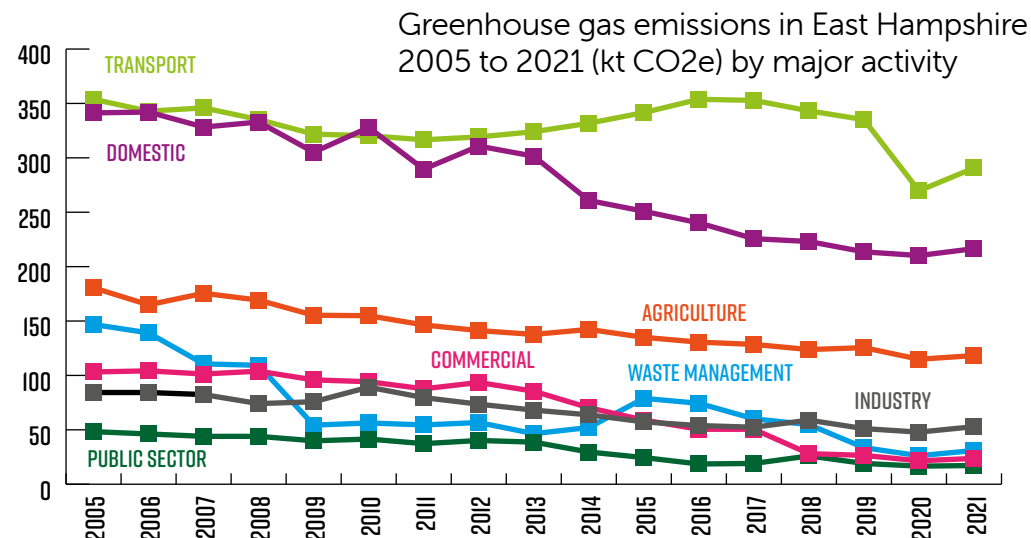
- Existing buildings such as retrofitting
- Renewables
- Land use such as natural carbon sequestration

DISTRICT-WIDE EMISSIONS

Based on the DESNeZ 29 June 2023 data release, Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) and Petersfield Climate Action Network (PECAN) developed a summary of district wide emissions .

How this data is derived and allocated locally is available on the UK Government website. The data is based on territorial emissions, not consumption emissions and has some limitations, but it does work well to highlight primary sources of emissions and trends.

CURRENT TRENDS



Key points for East Hampshire:

- Territorial emissions are dominated by transport, domestic energy and agriculture (83% of the total).
- Transport has the largest source (39%), almost all due to road transport.
- Domestic energy is the second biggest source (29%) and is increasing slightly, with most emissions from heating (gas or oil boilers).
- Emissions from farming cannot be ignored (16%) and this is dominated by methane from livestock (12%).

This evidence suggests that a reduction in territorial emissions should be focused on these three areas.

These priorities were explored further with our community groups and other stakeholders to gain consensus on these priorities and also identify key projects that were deliverable for the council and where would intervention have the biggest impact.

OUR CARBON AUDIT

The council has developed an EHDC specific tool to calculate our carbon footprint (our carbon audit). This is using methodology laid out in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and UK government’s guidance. Our baseline is for the financial year 2022/23.

Greenhouse gas emissions are classified into three ‘scopes’ which cover different sets or types of emissions, depending on their origins.

Table 1 outlines the total tCO2e for 2022/23. A breakdown of data is outlined in appendix 3.

	tCO2e 2022/23
Scope 1	69.74
This includes our own fleet vehicles, gas use for all buildings we pay bills for	
Scope 2	83.32
Electricity use for all buildings we pay bills for and street lighting	
Scope 3	7,270.06
Business travel, business travel from commercial services, waste contract rounds data, leisure contract energy use	
Gross emissions tCO2e	7,423.12
tCO2e per FTE (full time equivalent)	27.61

In summary, the biggest contributors are:

- 1 Waste contract (scope 3)
- 2 Leisure contract (scope 3)
- 3 Our headquarters (scope 1 and 2)

Of the remaining emissions, electricity, business travel and pool vehicles are the next considerable large areas.

As with any baseline, there are some issues with some data sets such as gaps or reliability of data, these will be mitigated and transparency on these gaps outlined through ongoing yearly reporting of our carbon footprint.

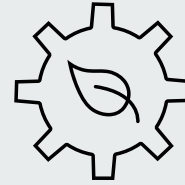
As an estimate and heavily caveated, EHDC represents 1.2% of the total 2.3% East Hampshire public sector emissions highlight in the district wide emissions data. It is essential to lead by example and get our own house in order, but to make the biggest impact on reducing emissions of East Hampshire, our focus needs to be wider than our own footprint and this is reflected in the strategy aims outlined.

To make any considerable difference in East Hampshire, the council need to look not only at its own emissions but at wider district emissions it can influence.

3.0 STRATEGIC AIMS, OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

Using the evidence base, engagement with our stakeholders, understanding internally what is deliverable and by increasing our collaboration with our stakeholders seeing where we can make the biggest impact collectively, we have five strategic aims.

1. A NET ZERO COUNCIL



Outcome:

By 2035 to be a carbon zero council with climate and environment priorities embedded across all council services

Objectives:

- Roadmap to Net Zero
- Develop and adopt the greenest Local Plan
- To reduce the carbon footprint of our waste provision
- To reduce the carbon footprint of our leisure facilities
- Reduce carbon impact of our own operational assets within our carbon audit.
- Enable and facilitate staff and councillors to become more climate conscious to embed climate action within our culture of EHDC.
- Reduce the impact of EHDC owned community buildings
- Reduce the impact of our procurement
- Ensure the impact of our regeneration and economy interventions contribute to a reduction in district wide emissions
- Sustainability embedded within affordable housing strategy.
- Reduce the carbon impact of our street lighting.
- To raise environmental performance of our investment portfolio

2. GREEN COMMUNITIES AND RESILIENCE



Outcome:

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our communities with strengthened community climate resilience.

Objectives:

- Facilitate inclusive community engagement to enable climate action and build climate resilience.
- Engage our young people in the climate and environment agenda effective EHDC climate and environment communications
- To support communities to become more climate resilient.

3. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT



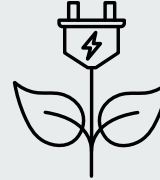
Outcome:

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from transport in East Hampshire

Objectives:

- Improve active travel opportunities across the district.
- Increase the use of electric vehicles.
- Work with the transport authority and other relevant stakeholders to provide a collective approach to reducing transport related emissions across the district.

4. ENERGY



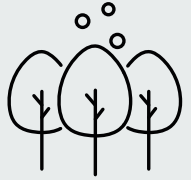
Outcome:

Reduced energy consumption from the built environment. Increased renewable energy generation and storage

Objectives:

- Make new and existing homes in East Hampshire as energy efficient as possible.
- Increase renewable energy provision and storage in East Hampshire
- Supporting East Hampshire businesses to improve energy efficiency.
- Support communities to improve energy performance of community buildings.

5. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Outcome:

Conserved and enhanced natural environment.

Objectives:

- To protect, enhance and restore important habitats and species in East Hampshire so that they can better respond to the challenges from climate change and other pressures.
- Enforce biodiversity net gain
- Support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- Maintain and improve (if needed) the air quality in East Hampshire
- To facilitate the planting of 120,000 trees across East Hampshire and further encourage planting to develop and provide a sustainable tree canopy within the district.

4.0 HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR STRATEGY

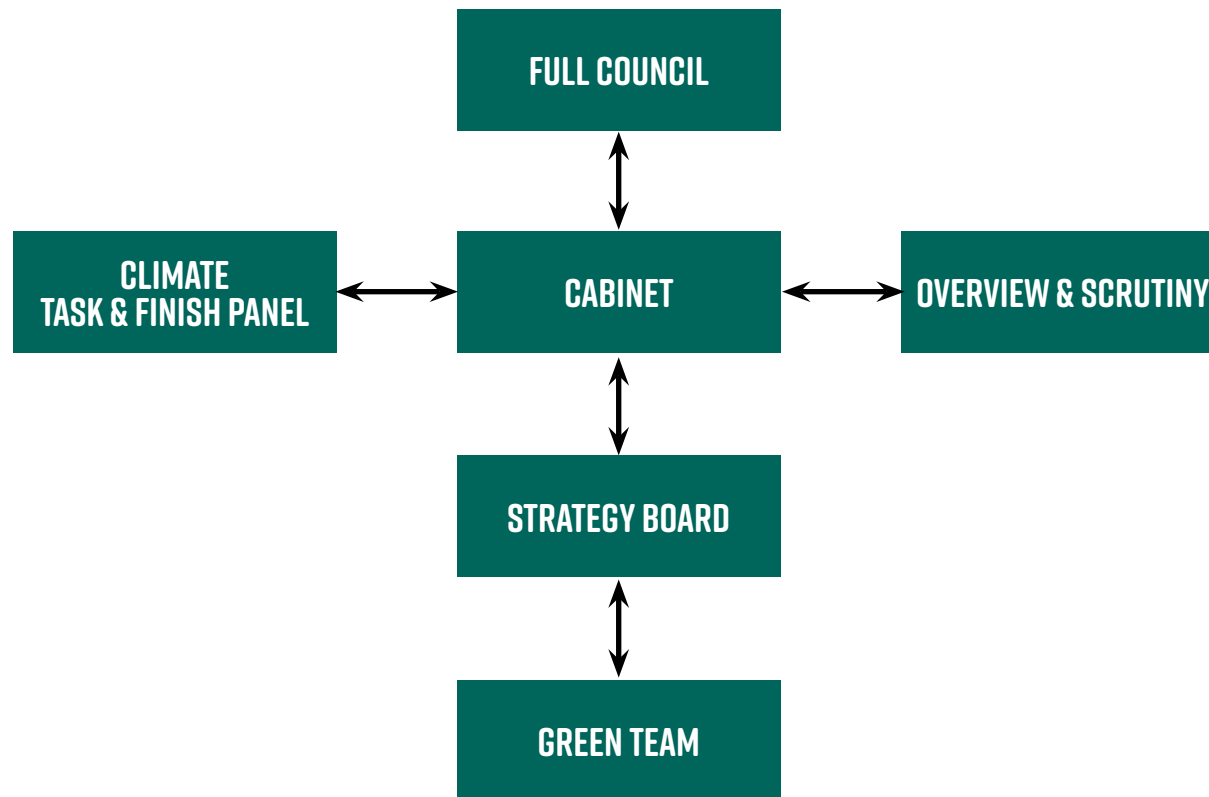
4.1 GOVERNANCE

Robust governance and effective working arrangements, both within the council and with a wide range of partners and stakeholders across the district, will ensure that real and substantive progress is made on this strategy and that there is a clear and transparent decision-making process. The Cabinet lead the delivery and are supported by the Climate Task and Finish Panel, a cross party group established by the leader in June 2023.

The council established a Green Team in October 2022. This team is made up of officers responsible for the delivery of different services across the council and has ensured that climate change action is integrated across all areas of the council. This virtual team is crucial to embedding our long-term response to how the council will adapt to longer term implications of climate change and encourages council-wide ownership of initiatives and action to reduce our carbon footprint.

Decisions relating this strategy will be made in accordance with the constitution. The decision-making process and accountability is shown (right).

THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS



4.2 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Climate change is the responsibility of us all and partnerships and working collaboratively is essential to ensure we deliver our collective climate ambitions. We have three ways of working, where we have direct control, where we can influence and work in partnership and where we can empower our community action (see right).

The council will continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with a number of stakeholders (appendix 1). This includes our public sectors partners such as Hampshire County Council, South Downs National Park Authority, parish and town councils and our strong network of climate action groups.



DIRECT

What we can do to achieve our operational net zero target and support reductions of emissions across the district (e.g. making our buildings more efficient).

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIPS

What our partners and stakeholders can do to reduce emissions. Partnership working, including planning and transport.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

What we can do to influence and support communities to reduce emissions - inspiring action and leading by example

Our partnership principles are:

- 1 Enable climate change projects to be delivered.
- 2 Improve common understanding on action for both responding to and mitigating climate change – ensuring we are all working towards a shared goal.
- 3 Collaboration – work collectively so we can make the biggest impact.
- 4 Open, transparent and two-way communication
- 5 Lead by example



4.3 RESOURCES AND FUNDING

The council's green team is made up of officers responsible for the delivery of different services across the council and has ensure that climate change action is integrated across all areas of the council. This virtual team is crucial to embedding our long-term response to how the council will to adapt to longer term implications of climate change and encourages council-wide ownership of initiatives and action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

The delivery plan will be supported by a funding plan, this will include projects being funded by agreed budgets through the normal budget setting process each year but also by applying for external funding.

There may well be opportunities for the council to invest in capital projects and programmes to support the aims over the lifetime of the strategy. As appropriate business cases will be developed and funding sought.

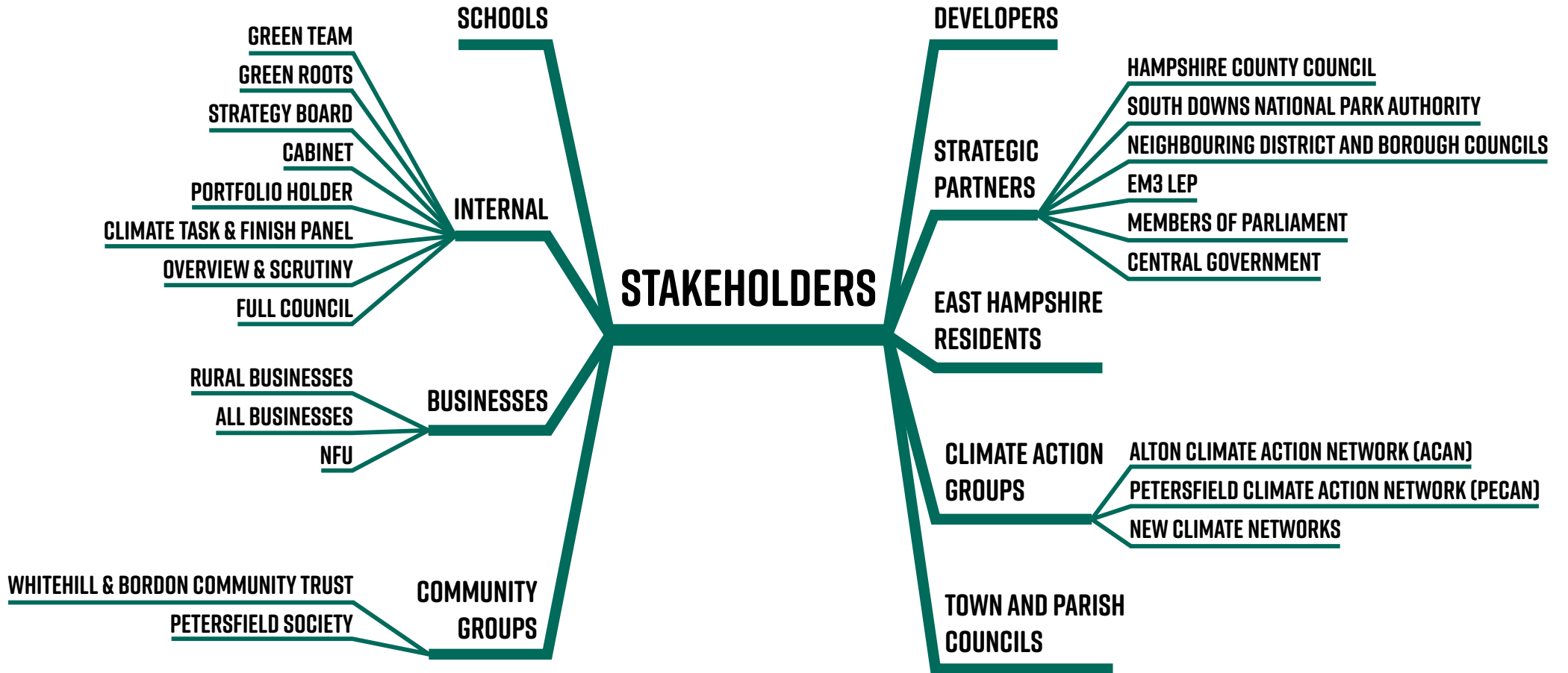
4.4 DELIVERY AND MONITORING

These high-level outcomes and suggested projects will be developed into a more detailed delivery plan. The delivery plan will be reviewed yearly, and progress will be reported quarterly via our 'green dashboard' available on our website but also a yearly report, which will be published. The yearly delivery plan will be agreed by the Cabinet and developed following the principles highlighted in section 1.4.

Significant updates will be reported via press releases and our green steps bulletin.



APPENDIX I - STAKEHOLDER MAP



APPENDIX 2 - CARBON AUDIT BASELINE SUMMARY

Our carbon audit covers the following areas:

Scope 1

Our own fleet vehicles, gas use for all buildings we pay bills for.

Scope 2

Electricity use for all buildings we pay bills for, street lighting.

Scope 3 (Discretionary to report)

Business travel, business travel from commercial services, waste contract rounds data, leisure contract energy use.

Out of scope

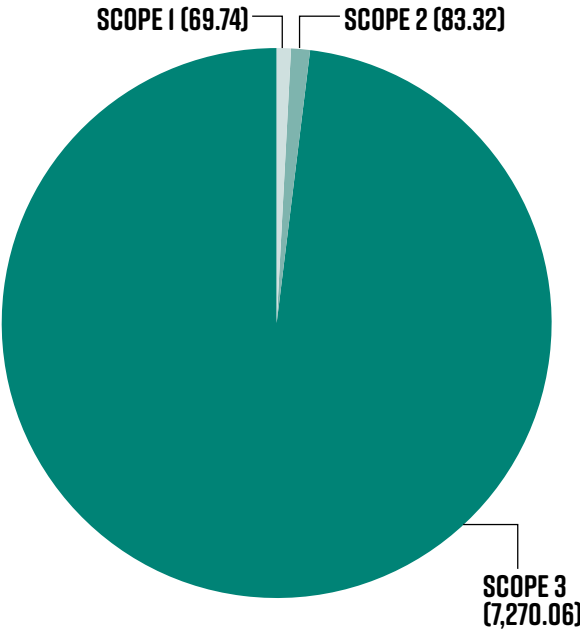
Procurement, buildings we have no control over, commuting.

2022/23 key results

		2022/23 tCO2e
Scope 1	Gas	45.53
	Refrigerants	-
	Fuel (Pool Vehicles)	24.21
	Total	69.74
Scope 2	Electricity	83.32
	Total	83.32
Scope 3	Business Travel	29.21
	Leisure Contract	1,604.05
	Waste Contract	5,474.00
	Street Lighting	12.57
	RegenCo & East Hampshire Commercial Services (EHCS)	0.79
	Water (Supply & Treatment)	1.16
	Well to Tank / Transmission & Distribution Losses -EHDC	37.74
	Well to Tank / Transmission & Distribution Losses -Leisure Contract	106.09
	Well to Tank / Transmission & Distribution Losses - Street Lighting	4.43
	Total	7,270.06
Total	Gross Emissions tCO2e	7,423.12
	Change over previous year	
	Change over base year (2022/23)	
Intensity	FTE Employees	268.85
	tCO2e per FTE	27.61

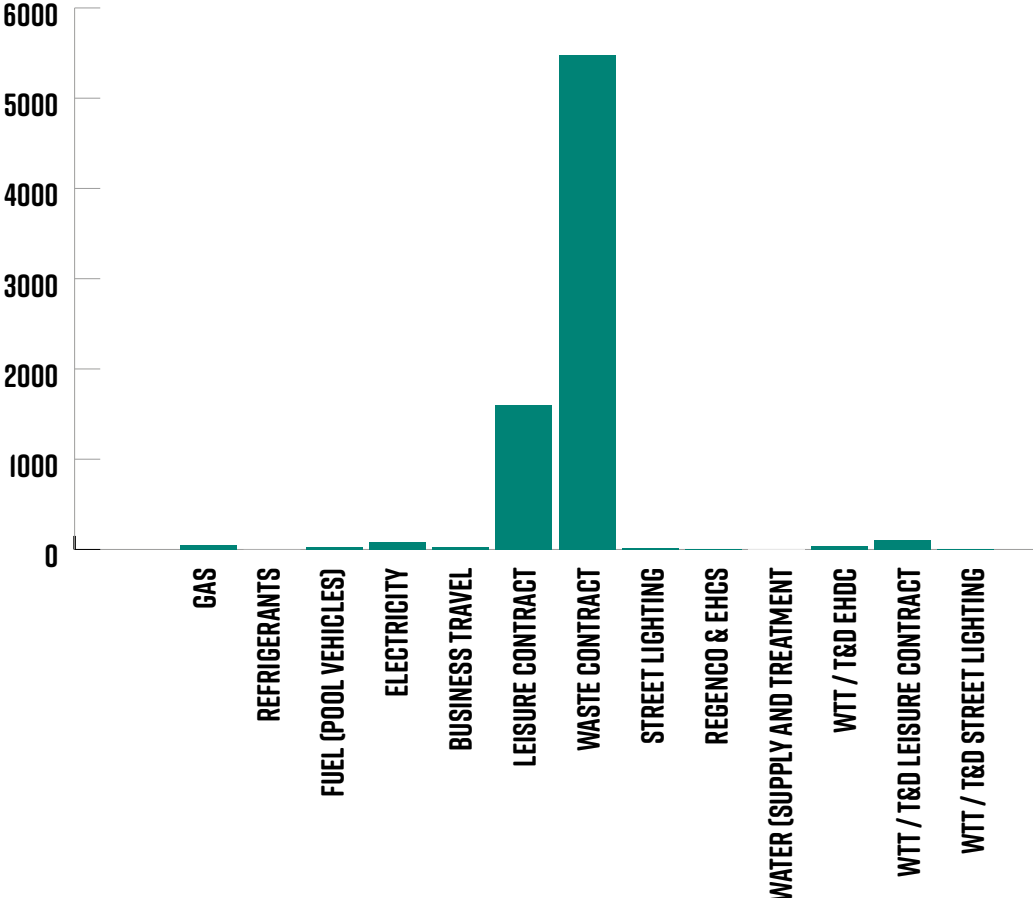
SPLIT BETWEEN SCOPE 1, SCOPE 2 AND SCOPE 3 (TCO2E)

This shows the proportion of council-related CO2 in each scope area.



TCO2E BY CATEGORY

This graph shows that the vast majority of the CO2 generated through council-related activities are through our leisure and waste contracts (scope 3 activities).



APPENDIX 3 - OUR GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS 2023

NEW NET ZERO TARGET

EHDC OPERATIONAL NET ZERO TARGET BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2050 TO 2035

FUNDING SUPPORT

£176,000 THROUGH **COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

£15,750 OF **COUNCILLOR GRANTS** ALLOCATED TO CLIMATE ACTION

£25,000 TOWARDS 50KWP OF SOLAR PANELS AT **EGGAR'S SCHOOL, ALTON**

£25,000 TOWARDS 100KWP OF SOLAR PANELS AT **THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL**

SUPPORTED AND FUNDED **TREE PLANTING PROJECTS** SUCH AS PECAN'S A TREE IN EVERY GARDEN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7,100 VISITS TO OUR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT WEBPAGES

4 GREEN STEPS BULLETINS SENT OUT SINCE OUR LAUNCH IN SEPTEMBER 2023

28 CLIMATE PRESS RELEASES

17 BULLETINS ON **SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS**

2 **SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS EVENTS**

2 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

4 **GREEN DASHBOARDS** PUBLISHED

MAKING HOMES MORE EFFICIENT

844 HOMES REGISTERED FOR SOLAR TOGETHER SCHEME - THE MOST IN HAMPSHIRE

£129,000 COSY LOAN FUNDING ALLOCATED TO 11 APPLICANTS

PLANNING OUR WAY TO NET ZERO

NEW **ACTION PLAN** AND DEVELOPMENT OF **STRATEGY REFRESH** AND ACTION PLAN WHICH WILL LAUNCH IN 2024
SUPPORTED ACAN & PECAN'S **DISTRICT WIDE EMISSIONS REPORT**

CLIMATE POLICIES INCLUDED IN THE NEW DRAFT **LOCAL PLAN**

GROW UP!

12 **PROJECTS**

11 ARE **CLIMATE AND GROWING RELATED**

OVER **50** **STAKEHOLDERS** ENGAGED

6 **BUSINESS AND SKILLS EVENTS**, INCLUDING NEW DIRECTIONS

GETTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

165KWP SOLAR PANELS AND GREEN WALL INSTALLED AT **MONTEREY HOUSE**

EHDC'S OPERATIONAL **CARBON AUDIT** COMPLETED

GREEN COMMUNITY GREEN PLACE GREEN COUNCIL

PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIPS BUILT WITH:

- LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION NETWORKS
- HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WASTE, HEALTH, TRANSPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE)
- PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS
- OTHER COUNCILS IN HAMPSHIRE

GREEN TEAM

GREEN TEAM ESTABLISHED DRAWING SPECIALIST SKILLS FROM AROUND THE COUNCIL
MORE DEDICATED RESOURCE TO SUPPORT THE CLIMATE AGENDA - SUCH AS BIODIVERSITY OFFICER AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OFFICER

CLIMATE TASK & FINISH PANEL

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

GREEN ROOTS

GREEN ROOTS GROUP OF STAFF CLIMATE ADVOCATES ESTABLISHED AND HOSTED STAFF LITTER PICK EVENT