



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 November 2022

Councillor Mark Whittington, Cabinet
Member for Waste and Climate
Change

***Climate Matters* annual climate change report**

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

Annual information report sharing update on climate change and carbon reduction projects.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Notes the project updates included within the report which work towards the Council's carbon reduction targets and wider climate change ambitions.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Clean and sustainable environment

Which wards are impacted?

All wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from the report. The Council has approved a Climate Change budget of £20k which is utilised to fund small scale energy efficiency initiatives.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The report aims to provide an overview of work relevant to the Council's declaration of climate emergency, oversight of which is an important part of good governance.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

Climate Change

- 1.1 The report aims to keep Members updated of the Council's work on climate change and actions completed within the last year. It is essential to review progress on a regular basis against carbon reduction targets and broader ambitions on climate change for the district.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 1.2 South Kesteven District Council made a formal declaration of climate emergency on 26 September 2019 with cross party support. Alongside this, the Council confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net-zero as soon as viable before 2050.
- 1.3 As part of this commitment, it is important to maintain scrutiny of progress towards the Council's carbon reduction goal and projects in line with the declaration of climate emergency.
- 1.4 The *Climate Matters* annual report included at Appendix 1 is the third annual report produced by South Kesteven District Council since a climate emergency was declared at Council on 26 September 2019. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on key projects which have a bearing on the Council's corporate interest in climate change.
- 1.5 The report also provides an update on carbon emissions arising from the district as a whole and beyond council operations, as well as other aspects at a national level.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The report provided is for information rather than decision. Members are asked to take note of the report contents.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 There is no statutory obligation to update on commitments around the Council's declaration of climate emergency.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The report is provided for information to share an update on relevant projects on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1: *Climate Matters* annual report 2022.