



South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy

Executive Summary



South Kesteven District Council is committed to responding to the global issue of climate change at a local level through developing a framework for action to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030 and to reach a net zero carbon position for the district before 2050.

To achieve this, we are focusing on:

- 1. Continuing to reduce the carbon emissions from our own Council activities**
- 2. Supporting and facilitating partnership working of stakeholders throughout South Kesteven and Lincolnshire to achieve net zero carbon in the District**
- 3. Adapting to the impacts of climate change at a local level**

Our first Climate Action Strategy maps out the main concerns and areas of focus relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the district. The programme of work has been structured into three phases: short term (2023 – 2025); medium term (2025-2030); longer term (2030 and beyond).

Our framework for delivery is in three key strands: Low carbon Council, Low carbon Communities and Low carbon District. This reflects our ability to control and to influence change, as well as our need to work with others to deliver that change.

A Climate Action Plan will be developed setting out projects and plans to deliver on the goals set out in the Climate Action Strategy. Eight key Themes have been identified, demonstrating the broad scope of work needed to effectively address climate change for South Kesteven:

Built Environment

- Lead local action to deliver high quality retrofit of domestic properties, across tenure types
- Help to deliver new developments in South Kesteven in which low-carbon principles are embedded
- Continue to decarbonise public sector owned buildings, including those owned by South Kesteven District Council

Power

- Identify and deploy renewable energy solutions where viable for SKDC properties
- Drive partnership opportunities to support and encourage renewable energy generation in the district and unlock green growth
- Support energy efficiency opportunities across the board to reduce overall energy demand

Transport

- Support opportunities to reduce need to travel and unlock near term carbon reductions
- Ensure South Kesteven has a high-quality network of electric vehicle charging points that meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors
- Work to embed public transport and active travel options for urban journeys



Resources

- Reduce the quantity of waste produced in the District
- Increase proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted to support the regional circular economy
- Ensure water is used in the most efficient way

Growing our Green Economy

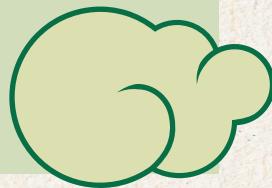
- Provide a supportive structure for skills and training for low carbon and net zero businesses
- Boost the number of low carbon businesses operating within South Kesteven and work towards becoming a regional hub for low carbon business
- Ensure Council procurement activity delivers local benefits for net zero

Communities

- Lead on communications and engagement within the district on climate change, adaptation and carbon reduction
- Engage with the South Kesteven community on the Climate Action Strategy and carbon reduction aspirations
- Ensure that projects and policy from the Council addressing net zero provides a fair transition, ensuring that no resident is left behind

Natural Environment

- Engage with partners to support projects boosting biodiversity and tree planting in South Kesteven
- Manage Council owned green spaces to boost biodiversity
- Embed Biodiversity Net Gain principles into new developments



Decision Making

- Embed response to climate change and carbon reduction across all areas of the Council
- Review capacity to raise finance to deliver key projects for the Council and District
- Provide comprehensive training to Council staff and Councillors on climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability

Through our eight identified Themes, we also outline the multiple, wider co-benefits of pursuing action in each area:



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Improving air quality



Reducing the impact of flooding



Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing traffic congestion



Ensuring a fair society



Since the Council's declaration of climate emergency in September 2019, regular reporting into the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken place on our climate change work. This includes an annual report on carbon emissions arising from Council operations, a high level overview of district-wide carbon emissions, and the Climate Matters report detailing key climate projects. We will continue to report and monitor progress on the Climate Action Strategy in this way.

[Click here for the full version of South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy](#)
(including background, methodology, development and strategic framework).