

Essex County Council Climate Action

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Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral can be found [here](#)
ECAC website www.essexclimate.org.uk

Essex Climate Action Commission

Set up by Essex County Council to advise the Council on how best to tackle the climate challenge and become a net zero emissions county by 2050. Over 30 Commissioners:

- Cross-party with representatives from across ECC, Districts and Parish Councils.
- Brings together internationally and nationally renown academics and climate scientists (UN Chief Scientific Adviser, senior academics from all 3 Essex Universities); representatives from wider public sector, major businesses and land owners in Essex; national trade associations, local charities and community leaders.
- Appointed Independent Chair – Prof Jules Pretty
- Appointed two Young Essex Assembly members to the Commission as co-chairs

Heavy hitting, locally networked Commissioners have dedicated significant time and expertise free of charge over the past year to develop the plan for Essex and are passionate and vocal advocates for its delivery.



Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral

2021 EV strategy; E-Scooter Pilots running;
Ten Liveable Neighbourhoods
Community owned renewables
Essex Design Guide; Green construction training
Smart meters in schools
All new builds to have solar panels

2022 New schools commissioned net zero
25 school streets
10 local delivery hubs
5 E-cargo bike schemes
Energy sector innovation hub

2024 Network community reuse
and repair hubs

2023 Essex Housing Demonstrator net zero development
Developers to fund flood risk management via CIL
Coastal flood resilience scheme in critical areas completed

2025 All New buildings net zero and support circular
economy recycling
50% Essex schools retrofitted to net zero
All residents & businesses to have kerbside recycling
All biodegradable waste to beneficial use

2030 25% all roofs have solar panels
1.43GW solar energy
Bioenergy in difficult rural homes
Hydrogen store for renewable energy
20 Liveable Neighbourhoods
3 new park and choose sites

2030 All public sector estates in Essex NetZero
100% fuel poor homes retrofitted & supplied
with renewables
2/3 Essex houses retrofitted
1/3 commercial buildings retrofitted
100% schools retrofitted
All new buildings carbon positive

2030 25% land natural green infrastructure
(urban and rural)
50% farmland uses sustainable land stewardship
30% Essex in a Climate Focus Area
Per capita waste reduced by 10%
70% recycling rate
Zero waste to landfill

2035 All waste heat reused
All gas fired power repurposed to bioenergy
Network of community energy neighbourhoods
in every district

2040 All housing retrofitted
Zero GHG emissions from housing
Essex renewables meets all county needs
30% all land natural green infrastructure
75% farm land adopts sustainable
land practises

2050 All roofs have solar panels
75% all developments have integrated natural water management
100% farm land uses sustainable land practises

Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral

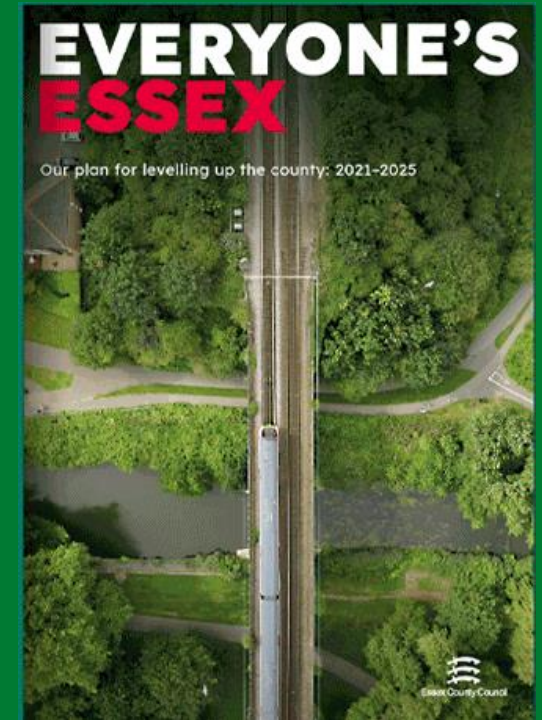
Essex Climate
Action Commission



Essex Climate Action Commission
Powering positive change



Everyone's Essex



Everyone's Essex online

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/everyones-essex-our-plan-for-essex-2021-2025>

Everyone's Essex video

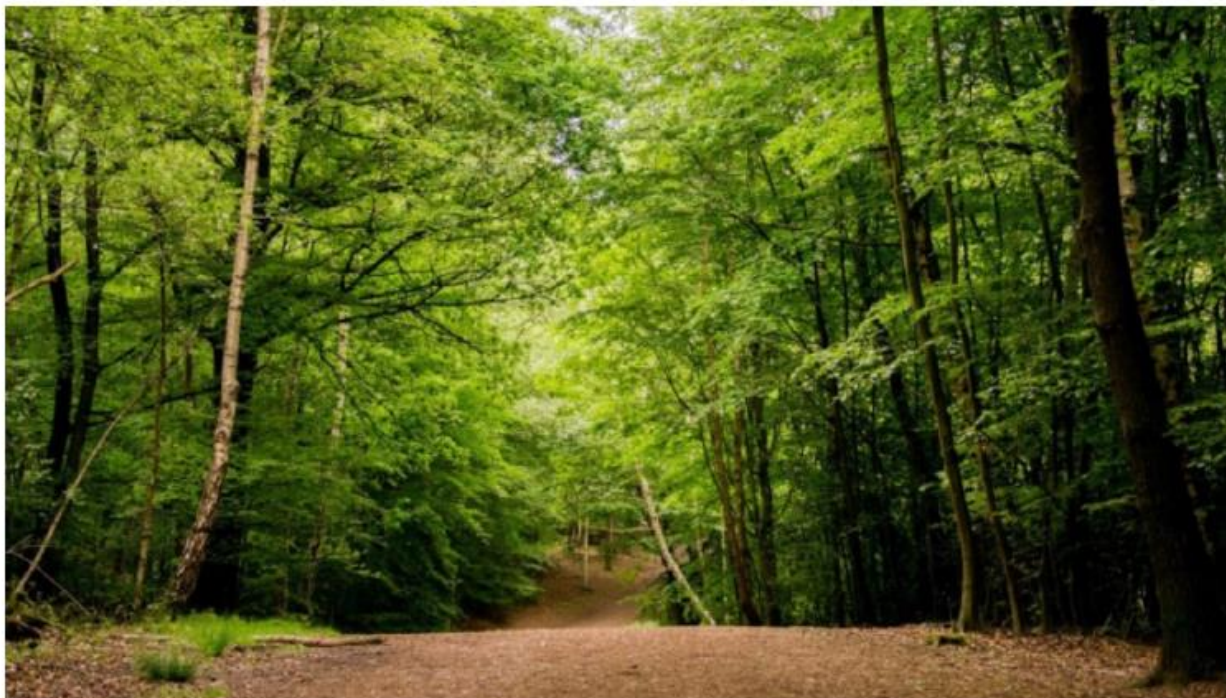
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbKTCIKtSNo>

CLIMATE COMMISSION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



[Home](#) > [News](#) > Essex's £200m climate action plan is unveiled

Essex's £200m climate action plan is unveiled



We have announced a £200m action plan to help tackle the climate crisis in Essex. It details how we will implement the recommendations of the Essex Climate Action Commission's report [Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral](#).

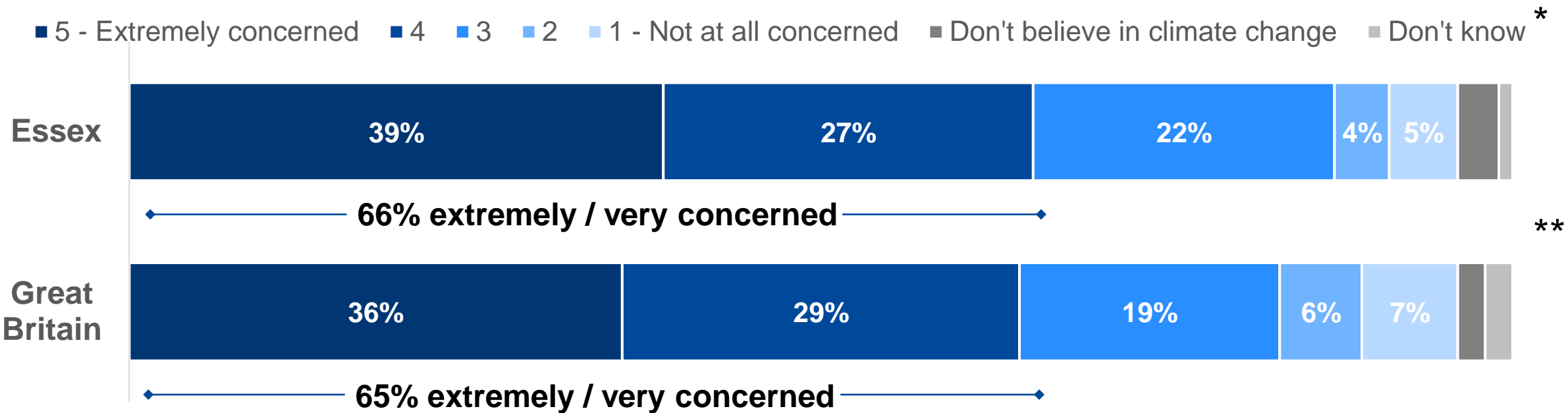
Essex
Climate
Action
Commission



Two-thirds of Essex residents said they are ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ concerned about climate change, in line with the national population

Level of concern about climate change

On a scale of 1 – 5, , where 1 = not at all concerned, and 5 = extremely concerned



*Essex: 3% ‘I don’t believe in climate change’ / <0.5% ‘Don’t know’

**Great Britain: 2% ‘I don’t believe in climate change’ / 2% ‘Don’t know’

Q20: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = not at all concerned, and 5 = extremely concerned, how concerned, if at all, are you about climate change? Alternatively, please tell me if you don't believe in climate change. **BASE:** All respondents (Essex: 1,800 / GB: 995)

Communications & Engagement

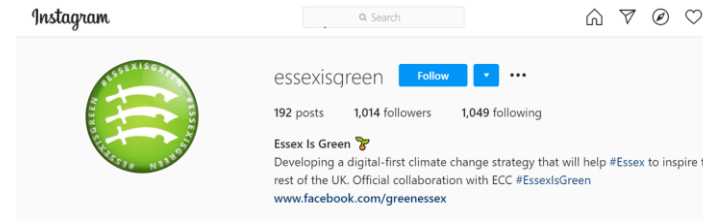
- Completed consultation & resident research
- Detailed comms plan
 - Commission website
 - Warm Homes website
 - Monthly Climate Newsletter for Members, Commissioners & residents
- Detailed community engagement
 - [EALC webinars](#), conference in Jan & staff support
 - Trylife app designed by and for children
 - Essex is Green social media channels
- Advice packs
 - Residents (launch in next few weeks)
 - Schools
 - SMEs (launch business conf in spring)
 - Essex carbon app in development

Events

- [Report launch virtual event](#) – 20 July.
- [Zero carbon bus tour event](#) – 1 September.
- Manifesto for Essex youth summit – 11 September
- [Electric road to COP26](#) – 29 October.
- [Epping Forest Youth Conference](#) – 19 November.

Campaigns

- [Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme](#) – Phase 1 £800,000/80 homes. Phase 2 - £5.2m.
- D-DRT – Six demand responsive electric buses launching soon.
- [Climate Action Challenge Fund](#) a £500k grant programme
- Lets Go Zero campaign for schools

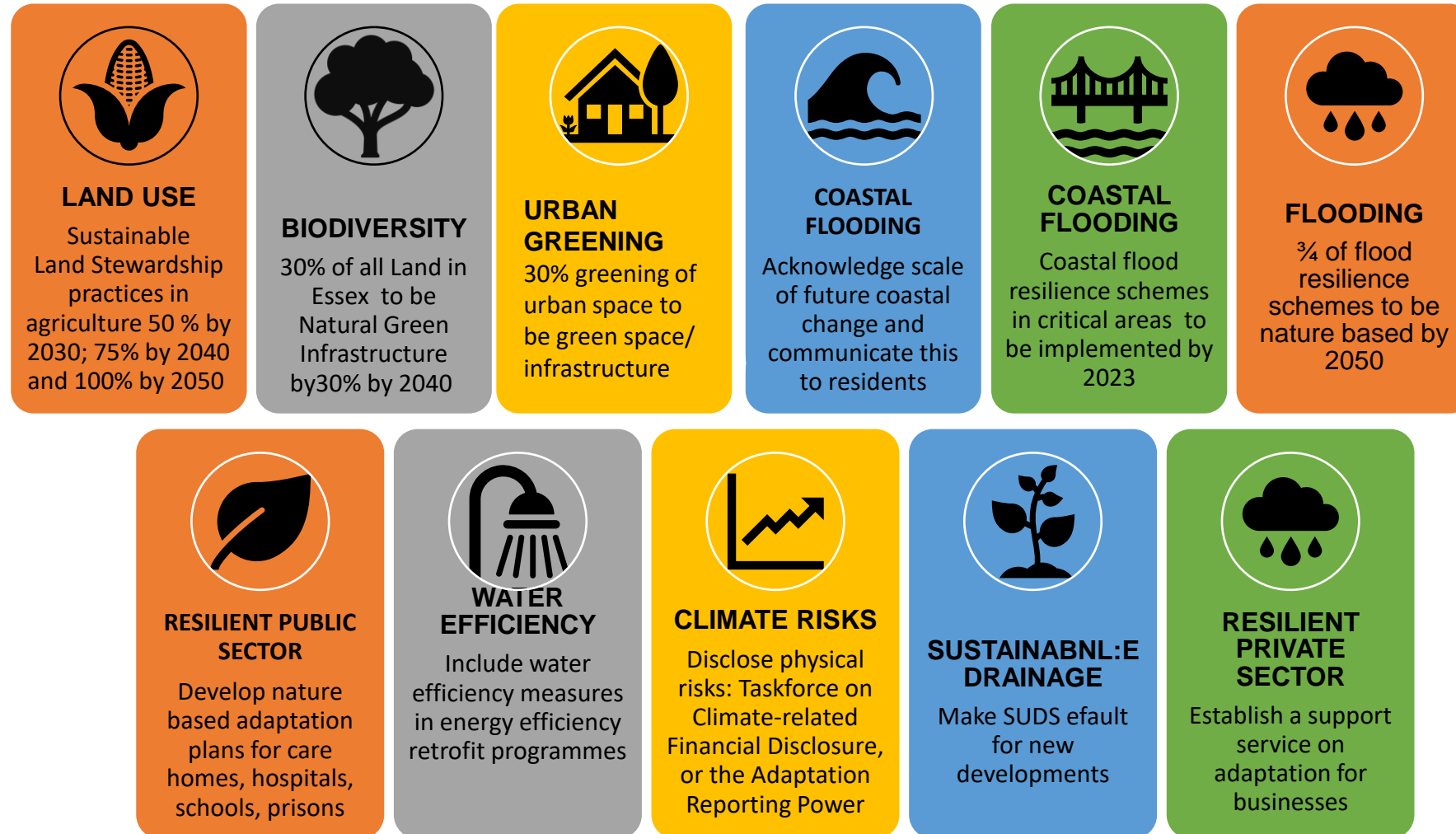


Maldon MP visits climate-conscious classroom



CLIMATE COMMISSION

LAND USE, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, RESILIENCE



Land Use & Green Infrastructure



Climate Resilience

- Flood Resilience £12m Capital Programme
- Flood Resilience: Community Resilience Plans with EALC
- Sustainable Drainage as a priority
 - We have approved adaptations on about 90 small streams and watercourses reducing flooding for 90 Essex Communities
 - The SuDS team have managed 317 planning applications, improving flood resistance on c. 16,000 new developments in Essex

Green Infrastructure

- Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Essex Forest Initiative: Forest partnership committed to 1m trees by 2025 across Essex
- Building with Nature
- Local Nature Partnership & Nature Recovery Strategy
- Water Strategy
- Successful Urban Trees Challenge and Local Authority Treescape Fund for **£360,000 to plant trees** in Essex Towns



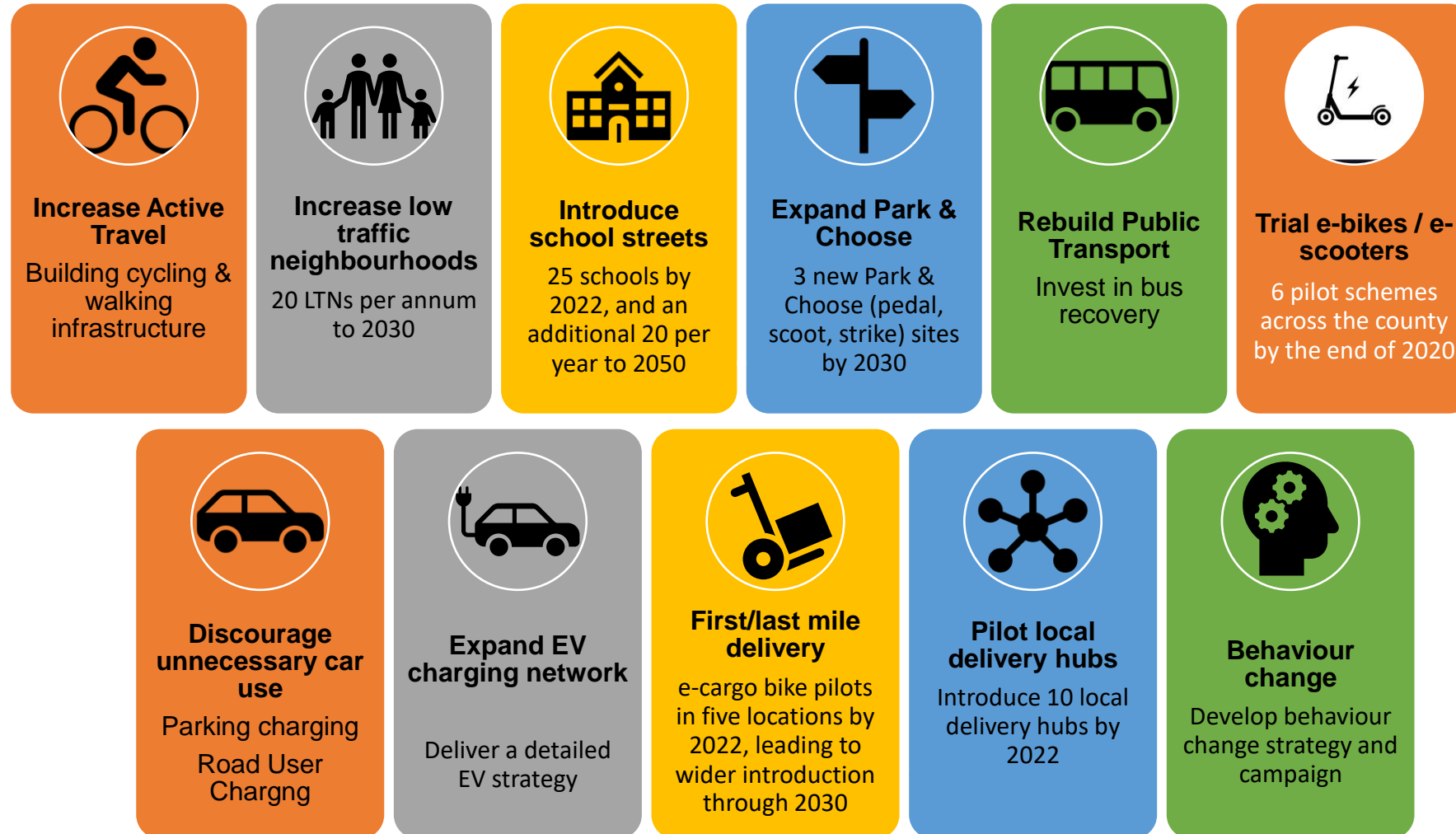
Make Rain Happy Canvey



Chelmer Valley

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TRANSPORT



Transport

New Transport Plan & supporting policy suite under development

Bus Services Improvement Plans and Bus Back Better to rebuild the Essex bus network

Active Travel - 5 schemes totalling ~£8M rolling out this year.

Congestion Schemes : Army & Navy - people focused solutions focusing on walking and cycling routes.

Electric scooter trials, in 6 locations

Essex Pedal Power - giving 1,300 residents in Jaywick Sands and Clacton a new bike free of charge.

Walking Strategy published

Safer Greener Healthier and Stop Swap Go behaviour change campaigns

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans for our districts, developing a long-term framework which will guide future investment in walking and cycling infrastructure. Investing £4.75m in new cycle ways and £3m to maintain our existing network.

Alternative Fuels strategy, rolling out electric chargepoints and electrifying the ECC car fleet.

Warm Tarmac & LEDs

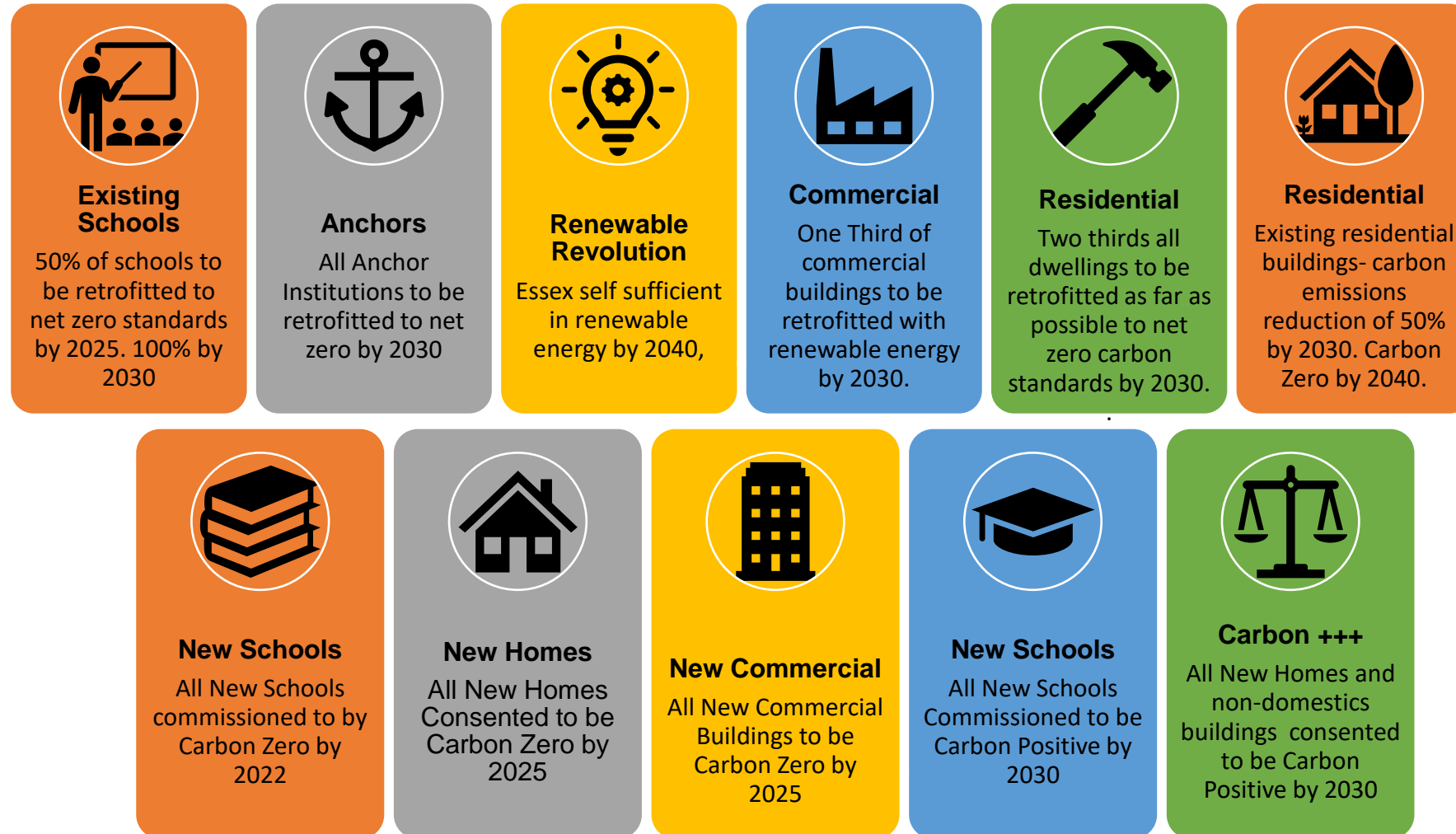


Escooter Trials



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BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Built Environment

Retrofit

- ECC estate: a policy to be net zero by 2030
- Fuel Poor Homes: £0.8m delivered; Successful joint bids £5.2m & £17.2m grant pots
- Social Housing: Applied with Social housing providers for £2.58m grant
- Working in partnership the 2 Districts to develop Area focused schemes
- Anchor Institutions commitments
- Smart meter roll out across schools and ECC estate



[Fears Essex families are slipping into fuel poverty because of pandemic | ITV News Anglia](#)

New Build

Working closely with EPOA

- ECC schools EPC A+ & net zero pilots
- Essex Design Guide
- Training for Planning Officers
- Garden Communities
- Developer Group Charter
- Green Skills Review

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ENERGY



Solar Panels on Roofs

Install Solar panels on every roof I by 2050 - 25% of rooftops by 2030.



Large Scale Solar

Build 1.43 GW of large scale solar on available land by 2030.



Renewable Revolution

Essex self sufficient in renewable energy by 2040,



No Waste Heat

All waste heat to be captured and reused (where local demand exists) by 2035.



Hydrogen

Create facilities to produce green hydrogen to fuel heavy good vehicles by 2040.



Community Energy

Build a network of community energy neighbourhoods by 2035.



Innovation

Make Essex a centre of innovation for emerging renewable technologies

Energy

- Renewable Energy Procurement
 - 100% ECC energy moving to renewable supply
- Renewables on our Estate
 - Danbury Country Park, 14 schools, ERO
- South East New Energy
 - £6m grant for community solar and storage
- Solar Together
 - residents bulk buy for solar panels
- Essex Energy Switch
 - residents switching energy supplier
- Community Energy Groups



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WASTE



Recycling

Accelerate recycling activity to achieve a minimum 70% recycling rate by 2030



Recycling

All Essex residents and businesses to have access to kerbside recycling services by 2025



Green Procurement

Evaluate emission impacts in all procurement decisions



Waste Innovation Fund

Plastic substitution, and local reprocessing capacity



Behaviour change

Establish a network of community-based reuse and repair hubs in Essex by 2024.



Collaboration

Develop the Essex Waste Partnership to fully engage with producers, industry and research bodies

Waste

- New Essex Waste Strategy
- Insourcing recycling centres
- Love Essex partnership
 - Composting
 - Waste busters
 - Cloth nappies
 - Champions: embedding volunteering
- Blueprint for a Circular Economy
 - Love your period
 - Food waste reduction pilot
 - Library of things
 - Schools pilot
- Biowaste Procurement





MOVE TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: WASTE

BENEFITS TO UK ECONOMY

**£75
billion**

£75 billion net Gross Added
Value (GVA) increase



**500,000
new jobs**

Up to 500,000 new jobs, cutting
unemployment across the UK



**15 million
tonnes CO₂e
avoided**

The equivalent to taking
1 in 5 cars off the road



Widespread adoption
of circular business
models across the UK
had the potential to
deliver:

- over £75 billion in Gross Value Added;
- over 21 million tonnes in material savings;
- over 38 million tonnes of waste diverted from landfill; and
- over 15 million tonnes of greenhouse gas reductions per year.

Green Growth

- **Green growth means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.** Source: OECD [Green Growth Strategy](#)
- To do this it must catalyse investment and innovation which will underpin sustained growth and give rise to new economic opportunities.



ECC via their sector development strategy have gathered insight data and modelling on the future economy of Essex. Essex is a place of opportunity. The greatest growth potential within the following sectors:



Clean Green Energy (including low emission vehicles tech)



Green Lifesciences (focusing on med & care tech)



Digitech (including Fin, Insure, Agri, Marine)



Green Construction and Retrofit (including NSIPs)



Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering



We need to ensure the recovery is as green as possible and takes us further towards our net zero ambitions not stores up more problems for the future.



Some of the key growth sectors of the future are green - we must ensure those businesses and jobs come to Essex



The size of the prize is vast: the investment in transitions to zero emission vehicles, housing and commercial retrofit for example runs into millions of pounds of spend



The businesses, residents and skills providers need our help to take advantage of the opportunity. We need to create a pipeline of demand for businesses and skills providers.