

Net Zero 2030

Actions 2022-23



Introduction

Climate change, due to greenhouse gas emissions, is one of the biggest environmental concerns of our time. We know it is happening and the effects could be devastating for people and wildlife.

The effects of climate change are far reaching. In Kent this means hotter and drier summers and warmer and wetter winters. There will be increased frequency and severity of storms resulting in additional flooding. The changing climate will also have an impact on people's health and wellbeing and biodiversity and wildlife, causing the natural environment to be under increased pressure.

Achieving Net Zero carbon emissions is a top priority that encompasses all aspects of the Council. It incorporates energy efficiency and generation, sustainable transport and active travel, air quality, health and wellbeing, habitats and biodiversity, flooding, water supply and consumption, and more.

We will continue to actively and enthusiastically tackle the challenge of climate change by ensuring that it is at the heart of decision-making and have developed actions that are ambitious, specific and measurable.



Our Commitment

Council Emissions

We have committed to working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions produced by the Council and our assets by 2030

District Emissions

We have an ambition to assist the District to become net zero by working closely with local communities

Living with Climate Change

We want to improve the resilience of the District to a changing climate

Our actions

We have identified actions to deliver our commitment based around 7 themes



SDC Building Emissions

Reduce carbon emissions in Council buildings resulting from energy use

Work with partners and leaseholders to reduce emissions from Council (built) assets

Water efficiency measures in Council buildings



Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

Contribute to offsetting carbon emissions through new planting including new trees.

Improve areas for biodiversity and create new habitats

Practice natural flood management



Working with Landowners, Partners and Businesses

Ensure the Net Zero 2030 commitment is incorporated into the Council's procurement process

Report and promote our actions towards Net Zero and share best practice with partners

Encourage, and support our partners, including landowners, residents, businesses and visitors to our District to reduce carbon emissions

Work with the local government family within Kent to deliver Net Zero across all our communities



Movement & Green Travel

Promote low carbon travel and sustainable movement

Improve the electric vehicle charging network across the District

Work with schools, local communities and groups to encourage low carbon travel such as car clubs, travel plans, cycling and walking routes

Continue our transition to a zero-carbon emissions vehicle fleet wherever practicable



Community Engagement and Leadership

Maintain a dedicated "Net Zero" and "Climate Change" webpage

Promote events to support wildlife awareness and opportunities to improve biodiversity

Promote events to support "green" and low carbon initiatives such as energy & water saving, reducing waste, green travel and energy efficiency

Encourage communities to develop and implement their own carbon emission reduction plans and initiatives

Help householders and businesses improve energy efficiency by providing free advice and support for energy improvements and energy saving

Council Plans & Strategies

Embed the findings and recommendations of the Carbon Reduction Plan into Council plans and strategies

Ensure all Council plans, strategies and decisions support the Net Zero 2030 commitment where possible

Embed positive behaviour change to reduce carbon emissions in all Council service areas

Where everything possible has been done to achieve net zero carbon but there is still a shortfall, take action through offsetting carbon dioxide emissions where necessary

Audit our current and levels of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis in order to track progress

Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy

Support and promote sustainable building practices and sustainable development

Ensure the Net Zero 2030 commitment is reflected in all new SDC and SDC owned company developments

Explore the potential for developing renewable energy generation within the District

What can we do together?

Sevenoaks District produces approximately 450ktonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) each year.

That works out at approximately 4ktonnes of CO₂ per head of population.

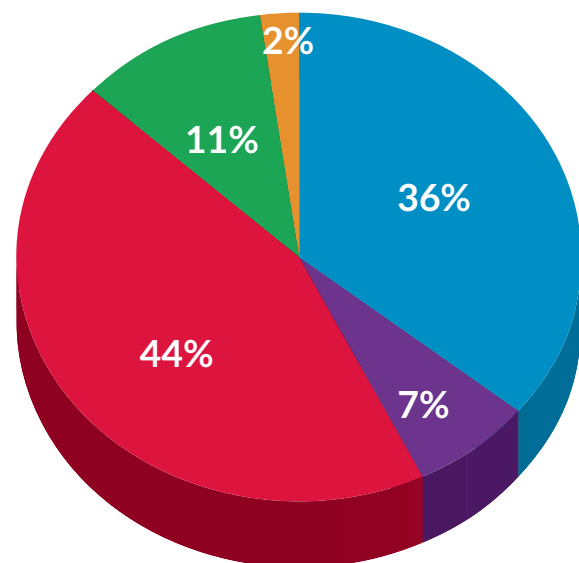
We need to work together to reduce emissions in the District and to combat climate change.

Emissions from the public sector accounts for only 2% of the District's CO₂ emissions.

The majority of the emissions within the District are from residential energy use and transport.

So if each of us tries a little harder to reduce our consumption of carbon emitting fuel, and do what we can towards a more sustainable lifestyle, we can help to save CO₂ and save money.

Look out for information on our webpage, social media and InShape for ways that individuals and businesses can make changes to reduce emissions.



Commercial Public Sector
Domestic Transport
Industry

From UK local authority (LA) and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics – Emissions within the scope of influence of LAs for 2019

Find out more

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