

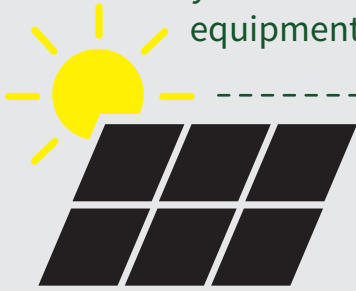
Environment Achievements in 2023/24

GOAL 1: Deliver green energy and reduce carbon emissions

1,217

Solar Together

installations generating 4MWh of clean power - 1,200 tonnes CO2e emissions will be avoided in first of the 25 years of the life of equipment



12 small businesses and **46** social homes retrofitted with **solar PV** saving **130 tonnes of CO2e** per year

Solar park opened in Somerset generating 21 MWh or **£3.5m** worth of clean energy per year **reducing emissions** and **energy costs**

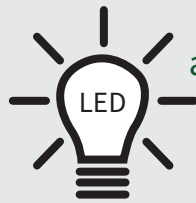
Opened 2nd Solar park near Kings Hill which will generate enough renewable energy for **750 homes**



266

small businesses supported with **£1,570,000** of grant funding, reducing CO2e by **1,000** tonnes annually, reducing costs by **£900,000** helping create **80** new jobs through LoCASE project

39 businesses supported for **sustainable projects** such as LED lighting



£1.8m

funding for decarbonising the KCC estate

GOAL 2: Adapt to our changing climate

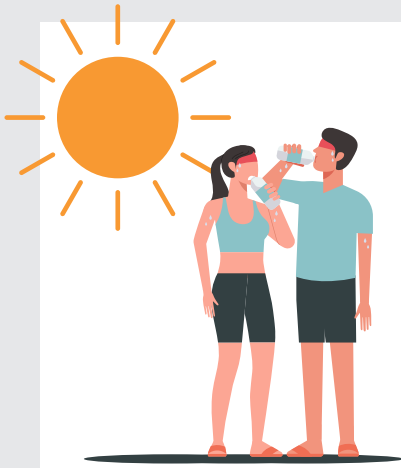
Developed **KCC's 1st** organisational **climate change adaptation plan**

3 on-site climate change risk assessments completed at KCC sites



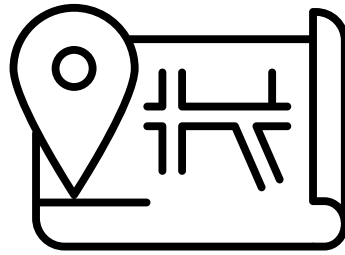
Shaped **national guidance** for local authorities participating in the **Adaptation Reporting Power pilot**





Supported partners from **Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands** in addressing neighbourhood level heat stress

Contributed to the testing and development of **3 national adaptation mapping platforms**



Kent wide local authority adaptation network established, with additional knowledge and information sharing across the region

GOAL 3: Reduce flood risk and effectively manage water resources

£115K

funding secured to **protect properties** from **flooding**



Rainwater harvesting calculator

developed with Cranfield University to help Kent's soft fruit farmers manage water more efficiently

£70k

funding secured for Gravesend **Surface Water Management Plan**



Water saving audits undertaken on KCC and other public sector properties with Thames and South East Water, saving tens of thousands of costs annually e.g. £13k annually at Kroner House

GOAL 4: Protect and improve the natural and built environment

£478K

grant funding secured to enhance our natural environment

10 YEARS

of **Plan Bee** creating pollinator friendly places, gaining national recognition by Bees' Needs Champion scheme for exceptional work

264

residents signed up to **No Mow May**, **58 hectares** in KCC estates left uncut to help **wildlife**



10,000

responses to planning applications influencing the quality of our environment and improving water and flood management



13

WORKSHOPS,

attended by **451 people**, representing **218 organisations** for the Making Space for Nature Kent & Medway project to shape priorities for local **nature recovery**

60,777
TREES
PLANTED



GOAL 5: Manage resources through a circular economy

Only **0.41%** of **municipal waste sent to landfill** (third lowest county council in England)

42% of waste **recycled, composted or re-used**, the rest being burnt for energy **recovery**

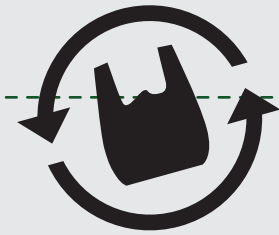
96% satisfaction with recycling centres and award-winning online booking system



Reuse activities introduced at recycling centres, including charity partnerships, pop-up shops, auctions, material specific projects, with **more than 156 tonnes being diverted for reuse** (of which **131 tonnes** being **book reuse**)

Over **1,000 items of care equipment** such as walking sticks and frames recycled and reused through partnerships with Adult Social Care, NHS and NRS Healthcare

50% reduction in rejected recycling at the materials recycling facility



Bag splitting introduced at recycling centres **to reclaim nearly 40% of recyclable material**

3,847 tonnes of wood recycled instead of incinerated through effective contract management



VAPE recycling introduced

enabling capture of vapes in residual waste and avoidance of fires at recycling centres



500

Hey Girl Sustainable period kits distributed alongside education programme for young people about financial and environmental benefits

49 circular economy business

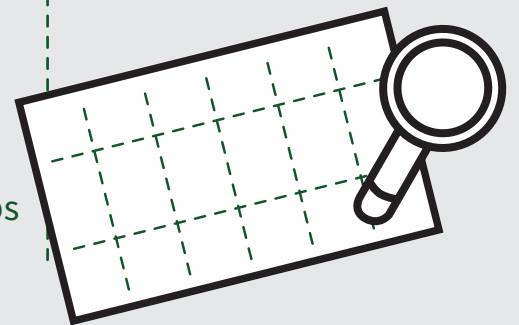
cases identified through Upcycle Your Waste with

247

businesses engaged in waste matching workshops and audits

Repair, Reuse and Upcycling Locator Map

launched highlighting alternatives to traditional waste streams



GOAL 6: Conserve and promote Kent's natural beauty and heritage

At our Country Parks and Partnerships...

1,145,902

visitors, **17,375** took part in educational visits and events

4,702

volunteer days delivered

8 green flags

retained and

5 South East

In Bloom awards

£1,200,000

funding for green projects

700+ people

benefiting from green wellbeing activities

440 sites

improved for nature and people



More people encouraged to **walk, cycle and connect** with nature through the Explore Kent website which received **720,000** visitors and **60,000** route downloads



£148K

secured to research Thanet's archaeological past

£62,750

secured for a community archaeology project



Discovery of the sea god

Triton Roman statue and foundations of a **Roman mausoleum**



Digitised 3,700 records to the Kent Historic Environment Record

Worked with scientists and partners across **UK, France, Belgium** and the **Netherlands** to connect people with their **maritime heritage**



2 windmills restored to their former glory, others maintained and **2,322** respondents to windmills consultation