

Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Implementation Plan Actions Jan 2024 – Dec 2027

ACTIONS

Priority 1 Emission Reduction Pathways to 2050

- 1.1 Agree evidence/baseline and set 5-yearly carbon budgets for Kent and Medway as a whole. Monitor delivery against the five-year carbon budgets for Kent and Medway as a whole.
- 1.2 Develop Kent and Medway emission reduction pathway to Net Zero by 2050. Monitor delivery against the high ambition pathway and the 1.5° compliant pathway set by the Tyndall Centre.
- 1.3 Develop local strategies that set out how Net Zero will be achieved in their area, using carbon budgets and emission reduction pathway report to inform the evidence base where appropriate.
- 1.4 Continue to develop and refine detailed emission reduction pathways for key sectors based on emerging policy and good practice, incorporating estimated costs where possible.
- 1.5 Monitor and publicly report progress against net-zero targets.
- 1.6 Consider how emissions from consumption could be calculated and incorporated into future area pathways / targets. Incorporate consumption-based emissions into ELES targets and implementation plan.

Priority 2 Public Sector Decision Making

- 2.2 Develop recommended requirements to be included within public sector contracts to align to net-zero ambition and support use of local goods and services where possible.
- 2.3 Review contracts and commissioning processes to implement recommended requirements (see 2.2), tailored to organisation / local needs as necessary.

- 2.4 Develop, test and rollout a comprehensive climate change impact assessment and social value framework for public sector decision making, with associated policies, guidance, training, and support. Rollout timeframe is 2023/24.
- 2.5 Encourage and support SMEs within public sector supply chains to effect positive environmental change by utilising Low Carbon Kent and linked support programmes across the county.
- 2.6 Conduct policy and service reviews to align policy, spending, and functions with net-zero commitments at both national and local level. Identify challenges/misalignment, then put in place mitigation plans to align them at a future date and reduce emissions in the meantime. Develop project and financial appraisal systems that include emissions and climate impacts.

Priority 3 Planning & Development

- 3.1 Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth, net-zero targets, and climate change adaptation.
- 3.2 Adopt and/or reference the refreshed Kent Design Guide as Supplementary Planning Documents, in line with Local Plan updates.
- 3.3 Secure agreement and identify scope and resource requirements to develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth evidence-base and strategic planning policy and guidance framework.
- 3.4 Using the outputs from action 3.3, develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework that identifies latest evidence, good practice, position statements and policies for Local Plans and Development Management.
- 3.5 Raise clean growth / climate change awareness and skills of planners, planning committees, developers, and supply chain.
- 3.6 Develop tailored Kent and Medway public sector buildings design guidance for new build and refurbishment.

Priority 4 Climate Emergency Investment Fund

- 4.1 Review existing internal and external funding streams, expertise and opportunities that could be used to deliver ELES actions. Develop into a central collaborative resource.
- 4.2 Accelerate the 'supply and demand' of nature-based climate solutions (understand demand, assess skills/capacity gaps, develop resources to support delivery).
- 4.3 Create the framework for a SE-wide 'brokerage hub' that can bring together 'buyers' and 'sellers' to co-develop nature-based carbon sequestration projects.
- 4.4 Review and act on the outcomes of the SELEP Sector Support Fund project, and Accelerating Nature Based Climate Solutions conclusions.
- 4.5 Grow and maintain a portfolio of 'shovel-ready' renewable energy projects suitable for external funding.
- 4.6 Develop a portfolio of quick wins and 'shovel-ready' natural capital / carbon sequestration projects suitable for delivery through Net Gain or other external funding.

Priority 5 Building Retrofit Programme

- 5.1 Develop organisational action plans to deliver net-zero public sector estate by 2030 at the latest. Monitor and report progress.
- 5.2 Implement a public sector building retrofit programme (energy and water), identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where possible.
- 5.3 Develop a comprehensive Kent and Medway Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (excluding social housing) that identifies the actions and financial mechanisms for all income levels, to reduce emissions (from electricity, heat, and water) from all property types, with evidence-led targets and costed actions where possible.
- 5.4 Secure funding and implement projects identified in the Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (excluding social housing).

- 5.5 Develop costed action plans to deliver net-zero social housing by 2030. Monitor and report progress. For new builds as well as existing housing stock.
- 5.6 Support and facilitate Registered Providers to develop costed action plans to decarbonise their housing stock. This should include the costs of material and labour.
- 5.7 Implement projects to improve the energy efficiency of social housing, focusing on whole house retrofit to PAS2035 standards and identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where possible.
- 5.8 Update and deliver the Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy (in association with action 5.3); supporting vulnerable and fuel poor households to access affordable energy.
- 5.9 Provide advice and guidance to private sector property owners, taking enforcement action where necessary, to ensure improvements are made on privately rented properties.
- 5.10 Support SMEs to retrofit energy efficiency and renewable technologies in business premises through Low Carbon Kent support and signposting to local solutions.
- 5.11 Assess the feasibility and funding mechanisms for 'place-based' retrofit schemes (e.g. street-by-street, whole business park, community scale), combining business, residential, public realm retrofit schemes.

Priority 6 Transport, Travel & Digital Connectivity

- 6.1 Review business mileage, set challenging reduction targets in light of COVID ways of working and expand sustainable travel polices that reduce the need to travel, encourage modal shift to active travel/public transport or increase car sharing.
- 6.2 Work in partnership to influence and develop plans to transition public sector fleets to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV).
- 6.3 Implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for Kent and for Medway; to develop motor-vehicle free routes for walking and cycling.

- 6.4 Update and implement the Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP) and related strategies and the Medway Sustainable School Travel Strategy to promote and incentivise walking, wheeling, and cycling through the provision of infrastructure, facilities, training, and engagement.
- 6.5 Work in partnership to prepare and implement local walking and cycling strategies. Measure the amount of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure delivered in Kent.
- 6.6 Work with public transport providers to achieve EURO VI emissions standards or better.
- 6.7 Trial new transport projects that drive the transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicle public transport.
- 6.8 Trial and implement projects that support modal shift away from car ownership and/or reduce car dependency.
- 6.9 Work with private transport sector, including school transport providers and taxi licencing to incentivise and switch to Electric Vehicles
- 6.10 Consider future opportunities and interventions for reducing emissions from freight and international traffic including use of rivers and wharfs, improved journey efficiency, improved efficiency of vehicles and Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme and ECOStars schemes.
- 6.11 Work collaboratively with the public and private sector to roll out electric charging points across Kent and Medway, in line with local EV strategies.
- 6.12 Support local SMEs to switch to ULEV vans through the Kent REVS Up for Cleaner Air scheme. : Support further measures to encourage Kent business to switch to electric vehicles.
- 6.13 Support progress in Kent regarding “low carbon multimodal transport hubs” to include measures such as multimodal integrated transport next to Fastrack electric BRT network, train stations, key bus corridors, public EV infrastructure, bike/e-bike share schemes, secure bike storage, electric car clubs with associated EV infrastructure, ecargo bike trials.
- 6.14 Tackle poor air quality hotspots through the implementation of Air Quality Action Plans.

Priority 7 Renewable Energy Generation

- 7.1 Undertake a Local Area Energy Plan for Kent (or multiple smaller LAEP's) that focus on all existing and emerging technologies.
- 7.2 Work in partnership to identify, support and promote new renewable energy projects across Kent and Medway, maximising funding from the Growth Fund, future Prosperity Fund and SE Energy Hub.
- 7.3 Continue to install solar panels on suitable public sector buildings and land, including offices, schools, and landfill sites.
- 7.4 Develop and implement the Maidstone Heat Project.
- 7.5 Identify the barriers and local authority role in supporting households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies. Incorporate findings into action 5.3 (domestic retrofit strategy).
- 7.6 Develop and implement projects to support households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies. (linked to action 5.4 – deliver domestic retrofit strategy).
- 7.7 Provide technical support for community renewable energy projects to include recommendations from Community Energy South on how to support community energy generation across Kent and Medway.
- 7.8 Support the development of future housing micro-grids, smart energy grids, and low carbon heat networks for new build homes.

Priority 8 Green Infrastructure

- 8.1 Undertake an assessment of Kent and Medway's opportunities for natural solutions to climate change.
- 8.2 Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway that agrees priorities for nature recovery, maps the most valuable existing areas for nature, and maps opportunities for creating or improving habitat for nature and delivering wider environmental goals (nature-based solutions).
- 8.3 Develop and implement a strategy to establish 1.5 million new trees (or their carbon sequestration equivalent) in Kent and Medway.
- 8.4 Develop cost effective and innovative approaches to establishing trees outside woodlands whilst strengthening biosecurity, through the Promoting Trees Outside Woodlands Project.

Priority 9 Supporting Low Carbon Business:

- 9.1 Utilise and build on the Clean Growth South East supply chain analysis to help realise and link the economic opportunities from the low carbon sector across Kent and the wider South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area.
- 9.2 Support local SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and public sector suppliers to progress through Steps to Environmental Management (STEM) training accreditation and enhance their knowledge of the key themes through Low Carbon Kent's Sustainable Business Toolkit.
- 9.3 Offer a low carbon support programme for SMEs, including support to highlight and signpost to funding, reduce costs, and carbon, and actively contribute to growth of the low carbon and renewable energy economy (LCREE) and environmental goods and services sectors (EGSS) through tailored support and collaboration.
- 9.4 Support the continued development of the onshore & offshore wind sector, green hydrogen, and related local supply chain.
- 9.5 Drive an increase in the local circular economy within Kent's resident and business communities through effective support, benchmarking, collaboration, and business case support.

9.6 Investigate workforce upskill/ training requirements for retrofit and green business.

9.7 To consider the environmental impact of tourism in Kent and work with partners to measure the impact and benefit of tourism. Also, support tourist business to be more sustainable.

Priority 10 Communications

10.1 Develop a joint communications, engagement and behaviour change strategy and action plan.

10.2a Develop a communication working group/network to ensure consistency of messages and facilitate joint working.

10.2b Consider the impact of reviewing and potentially rebranding the annual environment conference.

10.3 Maximise the impact of Great Big Green Week in Kent by promoting a shared calendar of events and supporting local activities.

10.4 Implement joint communication campaigns to raise awareness of the health impacts of air pollution and ways to protect health and improve air quality. Include progress on Kent air quality funding projects/programmes.

10.5 Implement joint communication campaigns to increase modal shift to active travel / public transport.

10.6 Support joint communication campaigns on behaviour change projects focused on tackling residents carbon emissions.

10.7 Implement joint communication campaigns to help residents reduce their water bills / save water.

10.8 Implement joint communication campaigns to reduce resident's environmental impact (Kent Green Action and District-level campaigns).

10.9 Implement joint communication campaigns to encourage and support SMEs to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

10.10 Develop shared resources for public sector staff engagement.

10.11 Monitor and review effectiveness of communication campaigns and develop targeted behaviour change programmes.

10.12 Investigate the training, skills and education needs for climate awareness for Kent & Medway (including schools, residents).