



MALDON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Maldon District Council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan

April 2025 - April 2028

[maldon.gov.uk](https://www.maldon.gov.uk)

Where Quality of Life Matters'



Foreword

Environmental pressures are often seen to be distant and not personally significant, however in reality their impacts are increasingly felt locally and are becoming frequent. Residents experience flooding and poor air quality in built-up areas, our valued natural spaces and coastline is under threat, wildlife habitat reduced, and our native wildlife lost. Agriculture and native plants are also being impacted, through foreign insects or pests, with new diseases spreading as a result of climate change and poor control of imported plants, an issue which is happening across all parts of the UK. All these issues directly affect the health and wellbeing of our residents, the success of local businesses and the character of our much-loved district.

Maldon District Council recognised the need to respond in 2021, when we declared a climate emergency and adopted our first climate action strategy. Since then, the Council has taken a proactive approach to protecting and enhancing the local environment whilst improving the quality of life for residents. We want the district to be a place where the quality-of-life matters.

After five years, it is time to revisit the strategy and build on the foundation and good work that has been achieved. The revised strategy for 2026 focuses on practical actions that deliver multiple benefits, these include improving air quality, better public health outcomes, enhancing the quality of the local environment, reducing flood risk, and establishing a greater resilience to any future pressures.

This will be achieved by supporting cleaner, more efficient transport options, encouraging sustainable land management, promoting high-quality development that is fit for the future, and engaging with communities to make informed choices that benefit their local environment.

At Maldon District Council we recognise that we have an important leadership role in responding to the challenge of environmental and climate action. Through building strong partnerships, providing direction, raising awareness, and supporting local action, the Council will deliver tangible improvements for our residents, the environment and wildlife, businesses and communities. This will create a sustainable district and a long-term legacy, ensuring that we create a place where the quality-of-life matters, for all residents both human and otherwise, protecting this very special district we all call home.



Councillor Richard Siddall
- Leader of Maldon District Council and Councillor



Jeanette Stilts
- Chair of the Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group

Contents

Introduction and context.....	4
Our aspirations	5
Our approach to Climate Action.....	6
Data-led approach.....	7
Emissions Baseline.....	8
Our Operational emissions.....	10
Shaping Our Climate Impact Areas	12
Our carbon reduction pathways.....	13
Climate Impact Areas.....	14
Energy.....	15
Travel and Transport.....	16
Adaptation and Climate Resilience	17
Preservation of Resources.....	18
Sustainable Working (Cross-Cutting Theme).....	19
Developing a Road Map to Net Zero.....	20
Working in partnership.....	21
Engagement.....	22
Opportunities and Barriers to Effective Climate Action.....	23
A Living Strategy for a Changing Climate.....	24
Climate Action Plan 2025 –2028.....	26
Glossary of Terms	39
References.....	41



Introduction and context

In 2021, Maldon District Council (the Council) committed to ambitious climate goals: achieving carbon neutrality across the District and aligning all strategic decisions, budgets, and planning with an operational net zero target by 2030. This initial ambition demonstrated a clear commitment to embed climate considerations throughout Council operations.

However, following a comprehensive review in 2024, the Council revised its net zero target to 2050. This change was driven by a baseline emissions report presented in July, which revealed key challenges to achieving the 2030 target. These included significant recent investments in long-lifespan assets not yet compatible with low-carbon alternatives, the complexity of decarbonising core service facilities, and the substantial upgrades needed across Council estates and transport systems.

An evidence-led review by the Officer/Member Net Zero and Air Quality Working Group determined that, under current funding constraints, technological limitations, and national policy dependencies, the original 2030 target was not achievable. The revised 2050 goal offers a more deliverable path, aligning with Essex County Council and UK Government ambitions while reinforcing the Council's determination to progress as quickly as possible.

Achieving the UK's legal target of net zero by 2050 will require widespread coordination. In Essex, the Essex Climate Action Commission has called for urgent, collective effort, highlighting that "climate action simply cannot wait." Nationally, the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Sixth Carbon Budget (2033–2037) mandate emissions limits, improved energy efficiency, and public health protection.

The Council plays an essential role in tackling climate change at a local level. Strong local leadership and practical, place-based solutions are key to regional and national success. The updated Climate Action Strategy provides an evidence-based, action-oriented framework to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts, in line with the Council's statutory duty to protect both the environment and public wellbeing.

The District faces distinct environmental vulnerabilities. Its 70-mile coastline includes sea defences safeguarding communities such as Mayland, Tollesbury, and Goldhanger. By 2040, flood risk may double, potentially impacting up to 75,000 homes. Other concerns include air pollution from older HGVs, pressure from new development, sea level rise, and land subsidence—highlighting the urgency of sustained climate action.

This Strategy supports low-carbon transport, sustainable agriculture, high environmental standards in housing, and informed, low-carbon lifestyle choices. Strengthening partnerships across all sectors will be critical to building resilience and reducing emissions.

These efforts aim not only to cut the Council's environmental impact but also to shape a healthier, more sustainable, and more resilient future for the District's residents.

Our aspirations

The Council has the following aspirations:

- To develop a Climate Action Strategy with the aim to transition to a carbon neutral District and a net zero Council as quickly as practicably possible (but no later than 2050) having appropriate regard to available resources and obtainable technology
- To support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the District and its parishes net-zero carbon within the timescale
- To work with, influence and inspire partnerships across the District to help deliver the goals through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources
- To include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.



Our approach to Climate Action

The Council's commitment to proactive climate action is underpinned by a comprehensive strategy, encompassing the following key initiatives:

- Establish a robust, data-led emissions baseline to guide decisions and track progress
- Focus on high-impact initiatives to deliver the greatest carbon reduction benefits
- Develop and maintain a funding plan that identifies and secures external support for local climate delivery
- Advocate nationally for tools, funding, and powers to enable faster and more effective local action
- Leverage technical support and funding access from the Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub and other partners
- Align climate goals through collaboration with public, private, and community stakeholders
- Engage the public, especially youth, to inspire behaviour change and grassroots action
- Coordinate Council plans with regional strategies and plans e.g. Essex County Council (ECC), Transport East, East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), and the North Essex Climate Change Partnership (NECCP)
- Build climate resilience by integrating adaptation into local planning and services
- Embed climate goals into Council operations, procurement, and policy making to ensure consistent delivery
- Establish clear governance and reporting mechanisms to monitor progress and ensure accountability
- Support workforce development to equip staff and partners with the skills needed for effective climate action.

“By adopting this multifaceted, accountable, and inclusive approach, the Council aims to lead by example in the fight against climate change — building resilience, reducing emissions, and securing a sustainable future for all.”

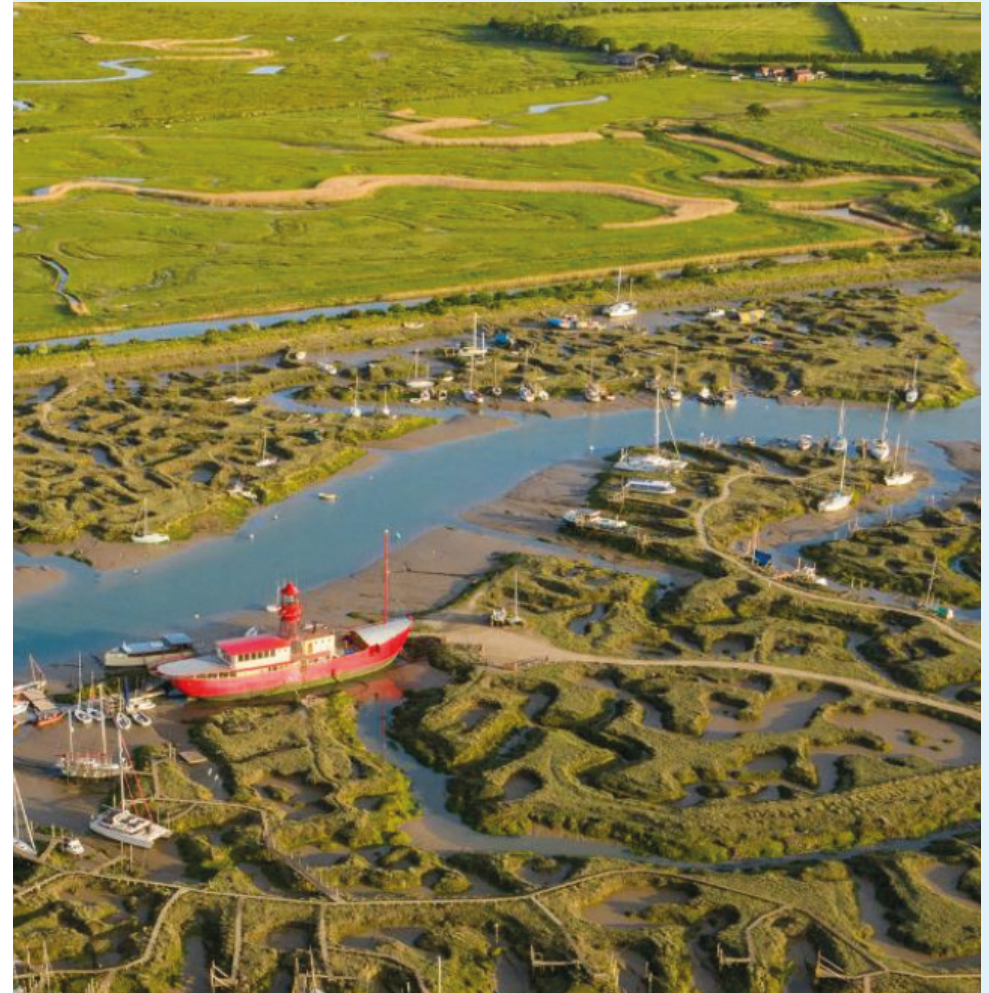
Data-led approach

To make effective, targeted decisions on climate action, the Council draws upon a wide range of robust data and local insights. Understanding the District's unique environmental and social context requires comprehensive evidence on where emissions originate, what behaviours contribute to them, and which communities are most affected.

Key datasets include information on energy consumption, carbon emissions, air quality, traffic patterns, vehicle ownership and fuel use, and flood risk. Together, these provide a detailed view of the challenges we face and inform the identification of high-impact opportunities for emissions reduction.

This evidence base enables the Council to design actions that are both locally relevant and strategically aligned. It also supports meaningful public engagement by ensuring that climate decisions are shaped by lived experience and local priorities.

This strategy is informed by local, regional, and national policies and guidance, and has been shaped through collaboration with Council service leads and the Net Zero and Air Quality Member Working Group. It reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and evidence-based climate action.



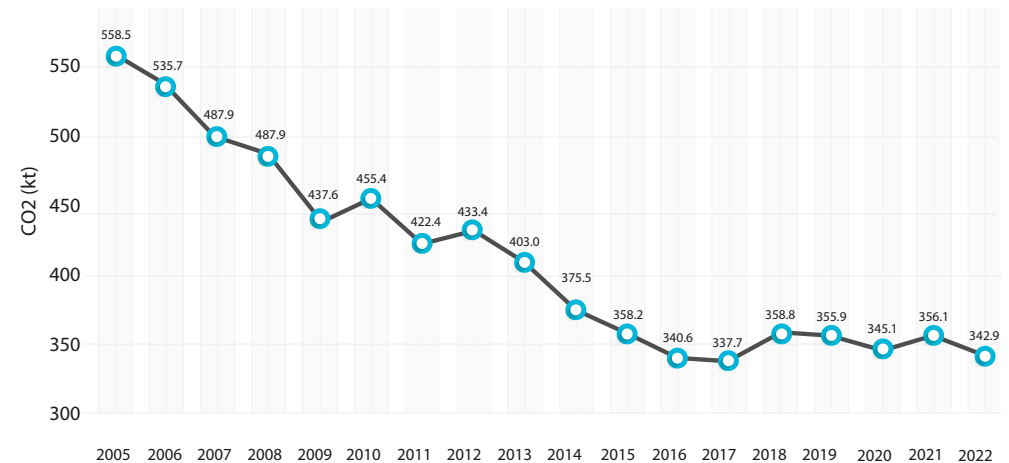
Emissions Baseline

District-wide carbon emissions are calculated annually by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which publishes emissions data for every local authority. This data is released with a two-year delay—for example, figures for 2020 were published in 2022.

The latest available data, covering the period from 2005 to 2022, presents greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in kilotonnes and shows a steady year-on-year decline across the District (Figure 1). While this downward trend signals positive progress, further significant reductions are required to remain on track with long-term climate goals.

Understanding which sectors contribute most to emissions across the District helps target action where it will have the greatest impact. The latest available emissions data identifies transport and domestic energy as the two key sectors responsible for the majority of local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, followed by industry and commerce, waste, and agriculture. The GHG emissions from these sectors are shown in Figure 2 on page 9.

Figure 1: Maldon District territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2022 (kt CO₂e)*



*kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent is a unit of measurement used to quantify total greenhouse gas emissions, converting different gases like methane and nitrous oxide into their carbon dioxide equivalent based on their global warming potential.

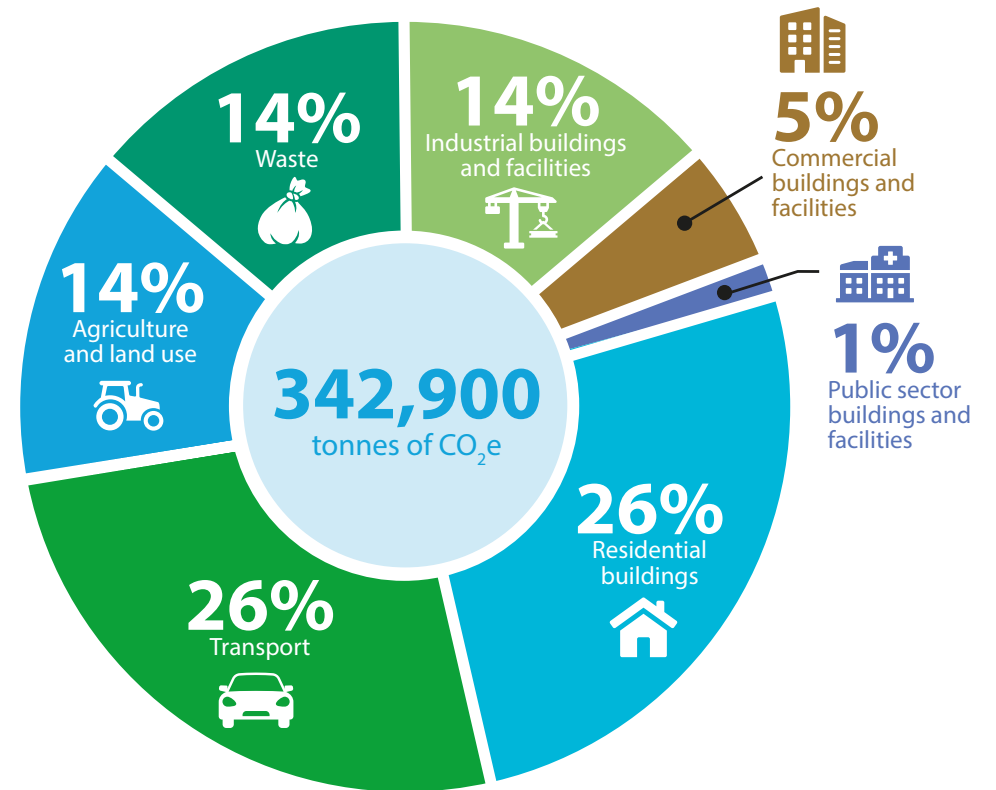
The graph highlights the primary sources of emissions across the District:

- Transport accounts for 26% of total emissions. Most emissions come from road traffic on A-roads and minor roads, reflecting the rural setting and limited access to low carbon transport options
- Domestic energy use is driven by gas and electricity consumption in homes. These emissions are influenced by building efficiency and heating behaviours
- Industry and commerce contribute significantly through consumption of electricity, gas, and fuel in business and industrial operations

- Agriculture is a key source, consistent with the District’s rural profile. Emissions arise from livestock, fertilisers, and land management practices
- Smaller sources include the use of off-gas fuels in remote or older properties, along with emissions from waste and land use. In some years, land use and forestry have acted as a net carbon sink, partially offsetting overall emissions.

This sector-based insight enables a more focused response, allowing the Council to prioritise interventions where they will have the greatest impact and to develop tailored strategies for each emissions source on the path to net zero.

Figure 2: Maldon District territorial greenhouse gas emissions by sector 2005-2022 (kt CO₂e)



Our Operational emissions

While district-wide data provides essential context, understanding the Council's own carbon footprint offers a deeper insight into the role we play—and the leadership we can provide—in reducing emissions locally. As a public body, the Council has a responsibility not only to reduce its own emissions but also to lead by example, demonstrating best practice and setting the standard for others to follow.

The Council's emissions are assessed across the three scopes defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:

SCOPE 1

Direct emissions from fuels we burn (e.g. gas for heating, petrol/diesel for Council vehicles)

SCOPE 2

Indirect emissions from electricity we purchase and use

SCOPE 3

All other indirect emissions (e.g. goods and services we procure, business travel, waste, and leased assets)

Although Scope 3 emissions are often excluded by some organisations, they represent a significant and complex portion of the Council's carbon footprint. Including them provides a more complete picture of our climate impact and enables more meaningful reductions. We currently estimate Scope 3 emissions using expenditure data, building energy certificates, mileage logs, and staff surveys. However, this remains a developing area of work. There is still a substantial amount to do to fully understand and address these indirect emissions.



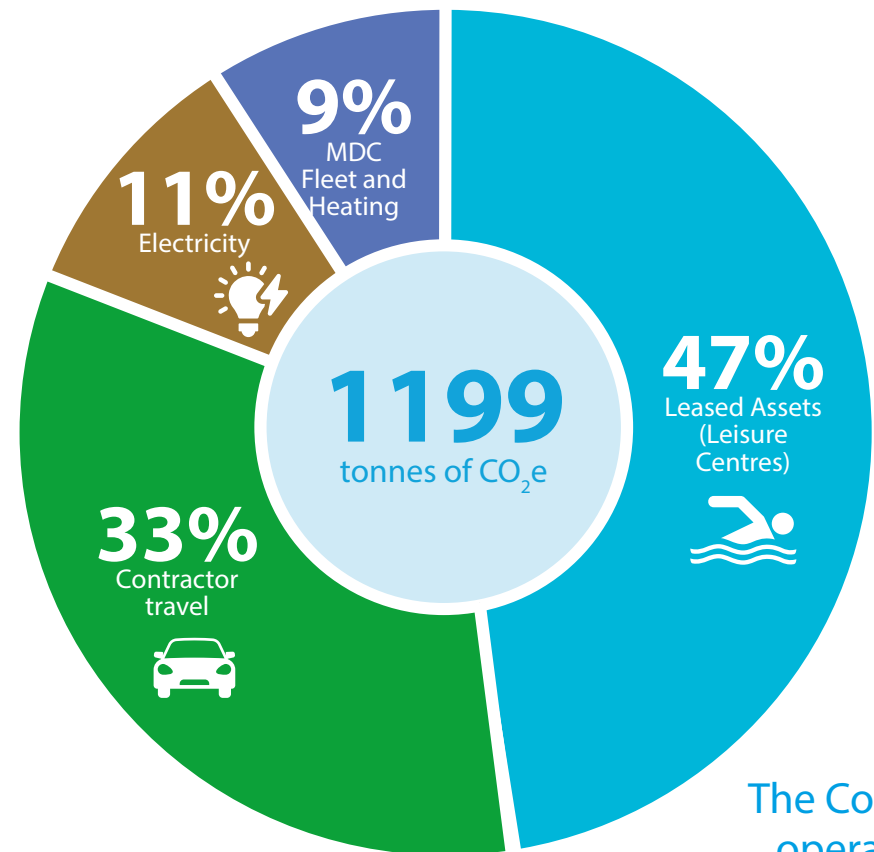
In the baseline year of 2022/23, the Council's operations were responsible for emitting a total of 1,199 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

To better understand the origins of our emissions, the 2022/23 baseline is broken down by source in Figure 4, highlighting the key areas of operational activity contributing to our carbon footprint. This baseline reveals several important insights:

- Leased assets, particularly leisure centres, are the largest contributors to our emissions. This highlights the importance of working closely with operators to explore options for decarbonisation

- Contractor travel is a major emissions source, reflecting emissions from services delivered on our behalf. This reinforces the need to embed climate considerations into procurement and contract management
- Electricity use across Council buildings and operations is a significant Scope 2 source, presenting opportunities for greater energy efficiency and renewable energy sourcing
- Fleet and heating, although a smaller proportion of total emissions, are areas under our direct control—offering practical, early opportunities such as switching to electric vehicles and improving building insulation.

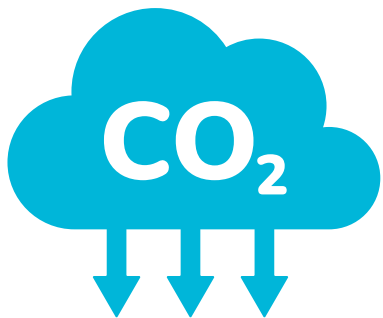
Figure 4: Maldon District Council Operational Emissions



The Council's operational emissions account for **3.5% of total emissions across the District.**

Informing Our Strategic Focus

The emissions baseline directly shapes the Council's strategic climate impact areas. The main emission sources—building energy, contractor travel, and fleet—clearly point to the need for focused action in Energy and Travel and Transport, where we can deliver meaningful and measurable reductions.



At the same time, Maldon's location in a coastal, flood-prone district highlights the need to build Adaptation and Climate Resilience, ensuring our infrastructure and services are prepared for future climate impacts.

Achieving net zero also requires responsible stewardship of natural and material resources. Our commitment to the Preservation of Resources will drive more sustainable use of water, materials, and waste across our operations.

Finally, embedding sustainability into the way we work—from procurement to staff practices—underpins our focus on Sustainable Working.

Together, these five focus areas create a structured, evidence-based framework for climate action. They reflect our emissions profile and our wider responsibilities as a local authority. Each focus area will be explored in detail in the next section of this strategy.



Shaping Our Climate Impact Areas

To effectively address the causes and consequences of climate change, the Council has identified four key pathways that shape strategic action across each carbon reduction focus area.

These pathways ensure that climate considerations are embedded across all aspects of local governance, planning, and community engagement:

- **Mitigation** – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Council’s target to reach net zero by 2050. This includes actions such as improving energy efficiency, transitioning to low-carbon technologies, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Adaptation** – Increase resilience to the local impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe flooding, heatwaves, and drought conditions.

- **Community Engagement**
 - Encourage and support climate-positive behaviour across the district through education, collaboration, and empowerment of residents, businesses, and local organisations.
- **Sustainable Development**
 - Develop a new Local Plan with policies and standards to address climate change, meeting future development needs in a planned and managed way, including policies covering sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), flood risk, renewable energy, biodiversity and geodiversity, transport and climate change.

These four pathways provide the framework for the Council’s Climate Action Plan (CAP), which outlines specific actions and initiatives for the period 2025–2028. Further details of the CAP can be found on pages 26-38 of this strategy document.



Mitigation: Cut carbon emissions in line with the Council’s 2050 net zero target



Adaptation: Build resilience to climate impacts like flooding, heat, and drought



Community Engagement: Promote climate action through education and local involvement



Sustainable Development: Embed climate goals in the new Local Plan.



Climate Impact Areas

These revised Climate Impact Areas replace the previous five pledges, while still reflecting their intent. They are organised under four strategic themes, supported by a cross-cutting focus on sustainable working practices, creating a clear, integrated, and action-oriented framework for delivery.

1. Energy

Objective:

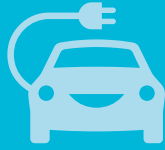
Drive emissions reduction by improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy generation across Council operations, assets and the District.



Actions:

- Improve the energy efficiency of Council assets through targeted feasibility assessments and installation of appropriate infrastructure
- Gather and maintain accurate data on energy use, fuel consumption, and other emissions sources to support comprehensive greenhouse gas reporting and monitoring
- Improve the accuracy and coverage of Scope 3 emissions reporting through better data collection, supplier engagement, and collaboration across services, and advocate for greater consistency in public sector reporting standards
- Support and promote local renewable energy and low-carbon heating group buying schemes, such as Solar Together for solar panels and Switch Together for air source heat pumps
- Work with local community energy groups to help residents and businesses access grants and invest in solar panels and low-carbon heating
- Collaborate and contribute to local and regional energy planning and large-scale energy feasibility studies to inform future investment in renewable energy infrastructure
- Promote advice services that help residents lower their energy bills and get funding for energy-saving improvements, e.g. Energy Company Obligation phase 4 (ECO4) and Warm Homes Essex
- Raise awareness and encourage energy-saving behaviours across the district through thought communications and events.





Objective:

Accelerate the shift to low-carbon transport and travel.

2. Travel and Transport

Actions:

- Improve active travel infrastructure, e.g. signage for walking, cycling and wheeling, dedicated segregated or off-road green cycle routes
- Encourage sustainable travel through public transport network use and expanding access to electric vehicle technology
- Use our Smarter Travel for Essex Network (STEN) and Modeshift stars Accreditation to work with partners to enhance active travel and sustainable travel modes including staff travel planning, community engagement, and policies that reduce dependency on private vehicles, particularly in town centres and high streets
- Increase the District's public EV charging network to support public, business, visitor and Council fleet needs
- Adopt a phased approach to transitioning Council operations and services to low- and zero emission vehicles
- Monitor transport emissions and behaviour trends, and review progress regularly to adapt and strengthen local transport plans
- Seek funding and work with partners to support transport innovation, pilot projects, incentives, and community-led travel initiatives
- Update the adopted Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025.





Objective:

Strengthen climate resilience by protecting natural ecosystems, mitigating flood and heat risks, and embedding climate adaptation into local planning, infrastructure, and community decision-making.

3. Adaptation and Climate Resilience

Actions:

- Protect and restore biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural infrastructure through tree planting, habitat restoration, rewilding, and nature-based solutions that also deliver benefits such as carbon storage, flood management, and improved water quality aligned with the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Work with partners to explore the feasibility of blue and green infrastructure projects that increase green cover, protect shaded areas, and incorporate permeable features—such as rain gardens—into new and existing developments to enhance climate resilience and environmental quality
- Collaborate with partners in the Maldon District Coastal and Flooding Groups to support and deliver effective flood adaptation projects.
- Continue town greening initiatives and develop greenways using redundant railway lines and canal routes to connect green spaces and promote sustainable travel
- Support sustainable farming by promoting ecological practices and local approaches that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and protective of public health
- Support communities to deliver projects that are 'low carbon and high nature'
- Promote resilient construction that delivers functional, healthy, and sustainable homes and buildings
- Collaborate with neighbouring councils, regional bodies, and national agencies on shared climate resilience challenges, including flooding, coastal change, and ecosystem restoration.





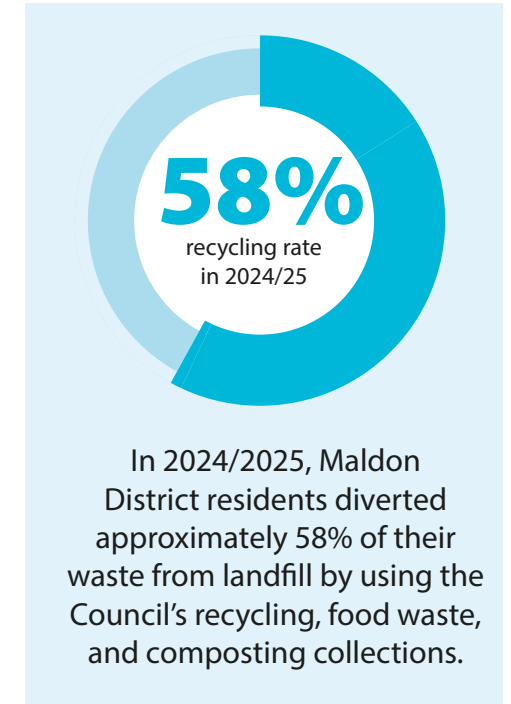
Objective:

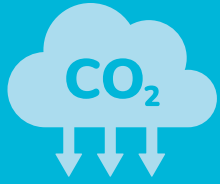
Advance circular economy practices, enhance waste and water management, and promote sustainable resource use to minimise environmental impact.

4. Preservation of Resources

Actions:

- Work towards achieving a minimum 68% recycling rate by 2030, in line with the Climate Change Committee's recommendations to government
- Develop and deliver a local Waste and Recycling Action Plan aligned with the Essex Waste Strategy, aimed at improving service access, participation, and coverage. This includes projects that meet emerging legislation, such as Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) and the national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Expand capacity for reuse and recycling by increasing collection services for food waste, garden waste, flexible plastics, and bulky items, supported by investment in appropriate infrastructure
- Encourage our community to waste less by making better use of what we already have — through reusing, repairing, sharing, and borrowing instead of discarding or buying new. Support initiatives such as cloth nappies, repair cafés, reuse events, and online gifting platforms that extend product life and help reduce overconsumption
- Promote community upcycling by turning unwanted items into something new — from furniture restoration to creative art projects. Back local initiatives that use waste as a resource for learning, culture, and creativity, helping to shift perceptions and build a circular economy mindset
- Improve water efficiency across Council operations, especially in high-use buildings like leisure centres, by installing water saving technologies and encouraging positive behavioural change.





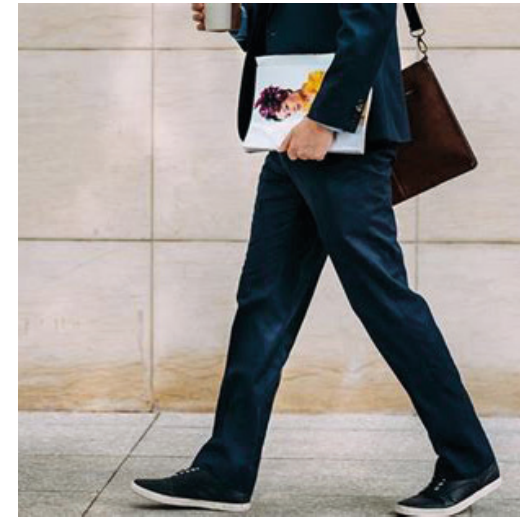
Objective:

Embed climate-conscious decision-making and resource use across all Council operations.

5. Sustainable Working (Cross-Cutting Theme)

Actions:

- Support hybrid working to reduce staff travel emissions, office energy use, and workspace demand through hotdesking, rotating attendance, cloud-based systems, and energy-efficient equipment
- Develop a Green Travel Plan to promote sustainable commuting and business travel, including car sharing, improved cycling facilities, and long-term incentives for public transport use
- Minimise office waste by encouraging paperless working, digital communications, reuse of materials, and responsible disposal or donation of office equipment and furniture
- Enhance digital engagement by expanding use of online forms, social media, and apps to reduce paper usage and in person visits, as set out in the Council's Community Engagement Strategy
- Promote low-carbon digital solutions, including cloud based services, energy-efficient devices, and sustainable IT practices
- Build a carbon-literate workforce by training officers and councillors in climate change awareness and action, supporting them to make sustainable choices and engage confidently with the community
- Make our purchasing greener by reviewing how the Council buys goods and services to better support climate goals – for example, by choosing suppliers with carbon reduction plans and encouraging things like online meetings and less paper use.



Developing a Road Map to Net Zero

Our five carbon reduction focus areas—Energy, Travel and Transport, Adaptation and Climate Resilience, Preservation of Resources, and Sustainable Working—provide the framework for targeted action. By aligning these themes with the insights from our emissions baseline, we can identify the most impactful interventions and sequence them into a clear, evidence-based pathway to net zero.

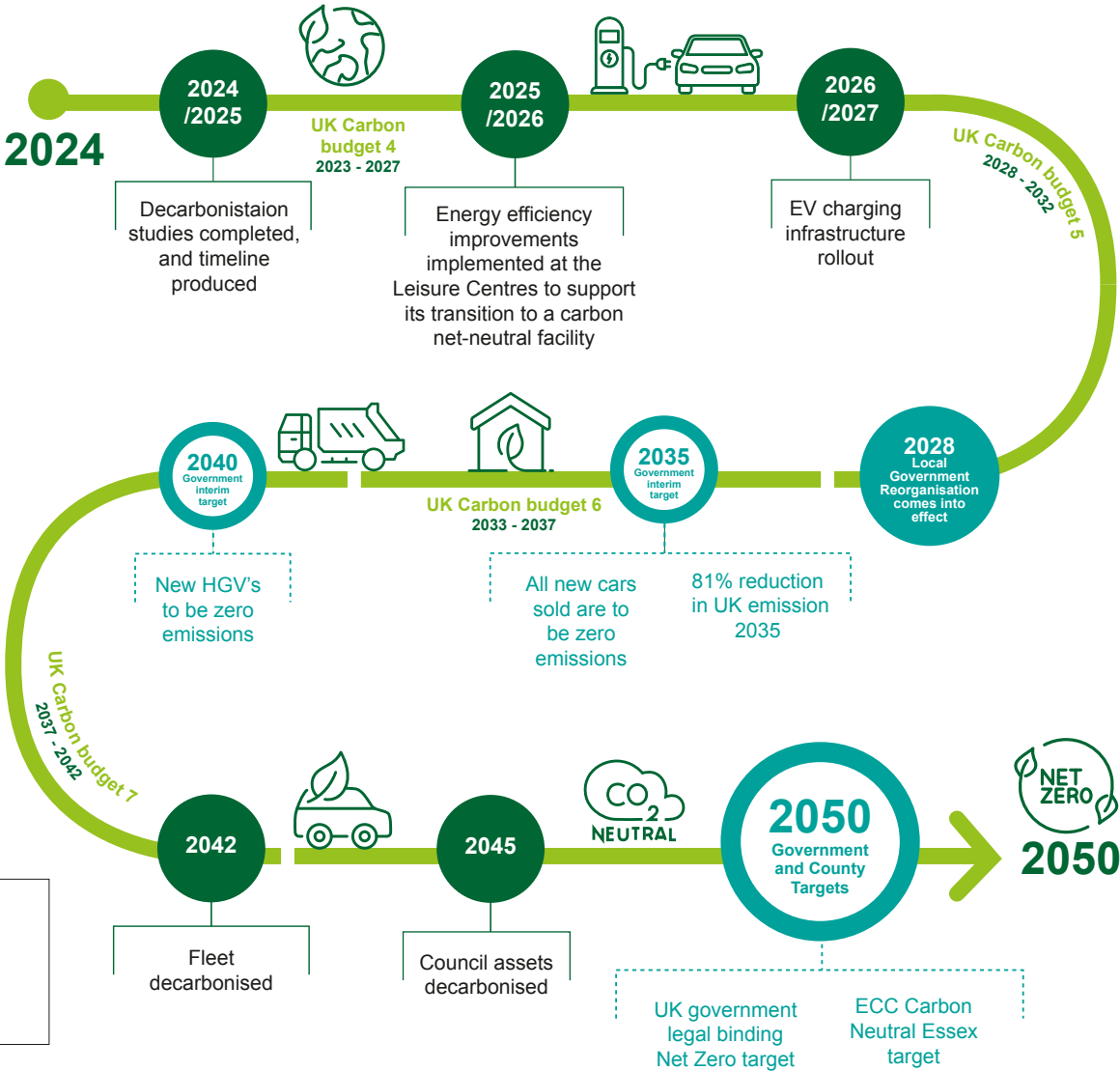
It will ensure our efforts are prioritised, realistic, and trackable—supporting accountability and continuous progress.

The following section outlines the key actions within each focus area and how, together, they form the foundation of a phased, practical, and ambitious route to a net zero Maldon District Council.

This road map will set out measurable milestones, aligned not only with local operational capabilities but also with wider regional and national climate commitments, including those of Essex County Council and the UK Government’s legally binding 2050 target.

KEY:

- Maldon District Council best case decarbonisation milestones
- UK Government/Essex targets



Working in partnership

The strategy cannot be implemented by the Council alone, and the actions set out are ones which the Council can take, either alone, or in partnership with others. At a local level, the Council already works with several statutory bodies and local agencies. We will continue to work with them to progress the work of the CAS.



Opportunities and Barriers to Effective Climate Action

The Council recognises that climate action presents a range of important opportunities. Interventions that reduce emissions can lead to improved public health and well-being, particularly through enhanced air quality and warmer, healthier homes.

Promoting active travel, improving energy efficiency, and supporting nature-based solutions can contribute to more resilient and healthier communities, reduced energy bills, and improved biodiversity. Climate action also offers opportunities to futureproof services, attract green investment, and demonstrate leadership in sustainability.

However, several significant challenges remain in delivering effective climate action. These challenges include limited funding, staff capacity, and access to specialist expertise. For example, the development of fleet and travel strategies requires substantial time, resources, and technical knowledge to implement effectively.

Additional barriers include outdated technology, a limited supply of suitable electric vehicles for certain operational services, and the complexity of retrofitting older Council buildings to improve energy efficiency. As technologies continue to evolve, some interventions may need to be phased in over the longer term to ensure they are both cost-effective and reliable.

Measuring the environmental impact of certain activities, such as procurement and water use, also presents challenges. These assessments can be complex and may reveal previously unmeasured or hidden emissions that will require further action.

The work set out in this strategy will help the Council develop practical and collaborative ways to overcome these barriers and ensure that climate action is delivered effectively, supporting the creation of more resilient and healthier communities across the District.



A Living Strategy for a Changing Climate

This Climate Action Strategy is a tool to ensure that climate and nature are considered in all the Council's decision-making and investments. It evaluates our current position and identifies local opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This strategy sets a clear roadmap for reducing emissions, adapting to climate risks, and preserving natural resources in the District.

The strategy themes align with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities and considers other strategies where clear co-benefits can be realised. Our approach is grounded in data and evidence, ensuring that actions are targeted, measurable, and impactful. We remain committed to delivering our Climate Impact Areas through collaboration with communities, businesses, and local and national partners.

The strategy is a living document, designed to evolve alongside changes in Council operations, district priorities, and technological advancements. Regular updates will track our progress, highlight achievements, and ensure continued accountability. These updates will be made publicly available on the Council's website, allowing residents and partners to stay informed and engaged with our climate action journey.



Key Strategies and Policies Shaping Local Climate Policy

National

Climate Change Act

– 2008 (passed earlier but still foundational)

Paris Agreement – 2015

Road to Zero – 2018

Gear Change: A Bold Vision for Cycling and Walking – 2020

Environment Act – 2021

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener – 2021

Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain – 2021

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR)

– 2021 (consultation & early policy design)

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

– 2021 onwards (phased implementation)

Simpler Recycling Reforms

– 2021–2022 (developed under Environment Act)

The Sixth Carbon Budget (2033–2037)

– Adopted 2021

Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan – 2023

Energy Act – 2023

Climate and Nature Bill (Private Member's Bill)

– 2024–25

National Planning Policy Framework - 2024

Regional

Essex Climate Action Plan – 2021

Essex Climate Action Commission Report – 2021

Essex Highways Decarbonisation Strategy – 2022

Transport East Strategy – 2022

Waste Strategy for Essex – 2023–2025

Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy – 2023

Essex Net Zero Policy – 2023

Water Strategy for Essex – 2023

Essex Design Guide (Climate Change Section) – 2023

East of England Net Zero & Adaptation Briefing – 2023

Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – 2025

Local

Approved Maldon District Local Development Plan 2014–2029

(The Local Plan Review is in progress)

Maldon District Design Guide (Climate Sections) – 2017

Air Quality Action Plan

– 2020–2025 (new plan in development)

Our Home, Our Future – Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan – 2021–2030 (revision emerging)

Maldon District Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2024

EV and Low Emissions Strategy – 2025

Maldon and Heybridge LCWIP – 2025

Corporate Plan – 2025–2028

Promenade Park Management Plan - 2025-2030

Climate Action Plan 2025 - 2028

The remainder of this document sets out how the Climate Action Strategy will be delivered through the targeted actions, projects, and priorities identified in the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Developed in collaboration with Council departments, the CAP identifies practical, deliverable actions across each thematic area, ensuring every service contributes meaningfully to the district's journey toward net zero.

Actions have been prioritised based on:

- Their impact on carbon emissions
- Their ability to initiate meaningful change
- Their potential to build the understanding and awareness needed to support long-term progress toward a carbon neutral Maldon District by 2050

The CAP includes:

- Specific projects and initiatives developed through the Carbon Reduction Focus Areas
- Activities the Council will lead and implement between 2025 and 2028

The CAP will be delivered within existing resources wherever possible, with external funding opportunities actively pursued to support implementation.

As a living document, the CAP will evolve in response to changes in local, regional, and national policy and legislation. It will be reviewed and updated annually through to 2028.



Travel and Transport

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
TT-01	Fleet Decarbonisation	Develop plan for transitioning council fleet to low/zero emission by 2050	25/26	Low - for developing plan	Internal via individual departmental budgets	Timeline with milestones and investment needs; carbon savings identified	Protecting our Environment EV and Low Emissions Strategy 2025
TT-02	Gradually transition the Council Fleet to Low-Emission Vehicles	Phase vehicle replacement; retain serviceable vehicles; prioritise EVs; adopt hybrids/ Euro 6 where needed; engage contractors	Ongoing	High overall. Lower via phased transition	Internal via individual departmental budgets	Cleaner fleet aligned with Vehicle Renewal Strategy	Protecting our Environment EV and Low Emissions Strategy – 2025
TT-03	Staff travel plan	Implement a Staff Travel Plan that encourages car sharing, journey planning, pool car usage, the Cycle to Work scheme, and other sustainable transport options. Include a cost-benefit analysis to highlight potential financial and environmental savings.	2025/2026	Low to produce the plan. Medium cost for implementing targets and initiatives	Internal	Publish staff travel plan	Protecting our Environment
TT-04	LDP Strategic Transport Policy	Develop a transport policy that encourages reduced car use and promotes active travel and public transport for local journeys.	2027/2028	Low - for developing policy	Internal	Local Plan adopted	Protecting our Environment Local Plan (emerging)

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
TT-05	Maldon and Heybridge Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Support funding for Maldon and Heybridge LCWIP infrastructure projects for agreed prioritised routes working with ECC, Active Travel England and Developers (growth options)	2026/2027	High	ECC/ATE/ Direct developer contributions (S106 and S278)	Forward plan with milestones agreed	Protecting our environment; Supporting our communities, Investing in our district
TT-06	Maldon District Future Transport Strategy ECC Feb 2024	Apply the strategy as a material planning consideration for all proposed developments in the District. Identify and prioritise key initiatives that support sustainable transport options	Ongoing	Low	ECC/ATE/ Direct developer contributions (S106 and S278)	Clear guidance on sustainable travel embedded in planning process	Protecting our Environment
TT-07	Expand Public EV Charging Infrastructure	Install public EV chargers on council land and streets with ECC using Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)/ On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) funds	2025/2026	High	ECC LEVI and ORCS	Project allocation confirmed; ECC maintenance and delivery plan in place	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Investing in our District EV and Low Emissions Strategy – 2025 Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy – 2023

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
TT-08	Decarbonise Leisure Centre Transport	Replace leisure centre fleet vehicles with low-emission alternatives and install EV chargers at Burnham and Maldon sites.	2025/2026	Medium	External Places Leisure	Reduced leisure centre emissions; supported EV transition	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Investing in our District EV and Low Emissions Strategy – 2025
TT-09	Air Quality Action Plan	Develop and implement an Air Quality Action Plan to address local air pollution, including transport-related emissions, and improve public health	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Air Quality Action Plan produced	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities



Energy

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
E-01	Develop the Carbon Reduction Plan	Enhance existing baseline and trajectory reports by identifying emission sources and defining costed reduction actions	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Timeline in place with costed actions and achievable milestones	Protecting our Environment
E-02	Report Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Compile data from Council services and prepare GHG reports for 2023–2025 using the LGA GHG Accounting Tool	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Annual GHG performance report published and linked to carbon targets	Protecting our Environment
E-03	Improve Scope 3 emissions reporting	Develop a data collection procedure, work with key suppliers to obtain emissions data, and align reporting with public sector standards	2026/2027	Low	Internal	Improved Scope 3 data coverage and alignment with reporting standards	Protecting our Environment
E-04	Assess Solar Generation Potential across Council Assets	Work with North Essex Council Climate Partnership to explore rooftop and car park solar feasibility on Council buildings and land	2025/2026	Low	Internal and External	Business case developed for solar energy projects on Council sites	Protecting our Environment Investing in our District

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
E-05	Support Businesses with Energy Efficiency advice	Promote regional initiatives supporting business energy efficiency. Signpost businesses to grants and retrofit guidance	Ongoing	Ongoing	Internal	More commercial tenants apply for and secure renewable energy funding	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities
E-06	Deliver Energy Efficiency Retrofit Support for Homes and Businesses	Promote county-wide home energy schemes, including Warm Homes Essex, the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme, and group-buying initiatives such as Energy Switch and Solar Together	2025-2027	High	ECC grant funded	Reduce emissions and energy bills for residents and businesses, improve home comfort and reduce fuel poverty	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities
E-07	Support development of Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Collaborate with partners to shape the Local Area Energy Plan by sharing data, aligning projects, and supporting integrated planning to map future energy demand and low-carbon opportunities	2025/2026	Low	Internal and External	Shared projects and energy demand mapping	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Investing in our District



Preservation of Resources

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
PR-01	MDC to develop a Waste & Recycling Action Plan	Deliver a local action plan aligned with the Essex Waste Strategy to improve access, efficiency, and recycling coverage	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Waste & Recycling Action Plan produced	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services Waste Strategy for Essex – 2023–2025
PR-02	Improve Recycling for Flats and Communal Properties	Work in partnership with SUEZ to extend food waste collections to all flats across the district. At the same time, review and improve communal bin stores by updating signage, distributing resident leaflets, and providing reusable containers to enhance waste presentation and increase recycling rates	2025/2026	Medium	DEFRA/Internal/ potential funding source added burdens (Annual grant)	Food waste collection scheme rolled out to all flats	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services
PR-03	Extension of garden waste collection service	Extend garden waste service to isolated properties	2025/2026	High	External Packaging extended Producer Responsibility (PePR) /Internal income/Capital funding	Increased participation in garden waste service	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
PR-04	Expansion of flexible plastic trial to all households	Phased expansion of flexible plastic trial to all households to be collected from pink sacks	2025/2026	Medium	PePR external	Greater coverage of soft plastics recycling	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services
PR-05	Re-use of bulky waste	Partner with ECC to promote reuse of bulky wooden and plastic items	2025/2026	Low	External ECC	Reduction in bulky waste sent to landfill; improved reuse	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services
PR-06	Reduce Leisure Centre Waste and Water	Implement new measures including new recycling bins, textile recycling, water checks, and awareness campaigns	Ongoing	Medium	External	100% of recyclable waste recycled; 2% annual reduction in water use	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Delivering Good Quality Services
PR-07	Cemeteries eco spoil bays (internal)	Design and construct designated eco spoil bays within cemeteries to enable effective separation and reuse of green waste	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Improved green waste management, reduced landfill disposal, and increased reuse	Protecting our Environment

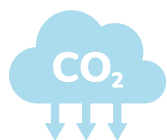


Adaptation and Climate Resilience

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
ACR-01	Local Plan Review	Develop robust planning policies and design codes that address Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), flood risk, renewable energy, biodiversity and geodiversity, transport, and climate change	2027/2028	Low	Internal	Local Plan produced	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Local Plan
ACR-02	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Align local actions with Essex Nature Recovery Strategy	2025/2026	Medium	External	Coordinated habitat recovery	Protecting our Environment
ACR-03	Publish Biodiversity Report	Develop and publish the statutory Biodiversity Report, setting out policies and measurable objectives following the completed First Consideration in Jan 2024.	2025/2026 (report due by 1 Jan 2026)	Low–Medium (staff time; coordination with services and partners)	Internal	Publication of the publish the statutory Biodiversity Report on the Council’s website	Protecting our Environment
ACR-04	Seagrass Restoration	Support partnership working with Seagrass Group	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Group established and potential projects identified	Protecting our Environment

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
ACR-05	Tree Planting and Management Programme	Increase tree planting across Council-owned parks, open spaces, and cemeteries in collaboration with partner organisations, while maintaining existing tree stock through regular arboriculture surveys to ensure long-term health and resilience	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Expanded tree canopy, improved urban biodiversity, and healthy, resilient tree populations	Protecting our Environment Promenade Park Management Plan 2025-2030
ACR-06	Promenade Park Management Plan	Adopt and implement the plan priority actions	2025/2026	High	Internal, external and Direct developer contributions (\$106 and \$278)	Biodiverse, accessible and well-managed park	Protecting our Environment
ACR-07	Rewilding	Maintain and monitor existing rewilded areas to preserve ecological value, support biodiversity, and ensure the effectiveness of rewilding efforts	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Sustained ecological health and biodiversity within existing rewilded areas through effective long-term management.	Protecting our Environment Promenade Park Management Plan (emerging)
ACR-08	Enhancing Flood Resilience Through Strategic Infrastructure Improvements	Collaborate with partners on flood defence projects, including the Heybridge Flood Alleviation Scheme, refurbishment of Heybridge Lock and Maldon Bypass Flood Gates, Seawall restoration, and co-developing raingarden initiatives	Ongoing	High	External/internal	Key projects and activities progressed/ delivered	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities Investing in our District

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
ACR-09	Community Climate & Energy Groups	Support local climate action groups through resources, training, and collaboration to empower community-led sustainability initiatives	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Engaged communities taking climate action	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities
ACR-10	Parish and Town Council Engagement	Engage with parish councils to promote positive development of inter-council relationships and mutual support in adapting to climate change impacts	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Wider adoption of local climate actions	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities



Sustainable working

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
SW-01	Apply for Carbon Literacy Bronze Award	Prepare an application for Bronze accreditation that demonstrates the Council's commitment to carbon literacy	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Recognition of the Council's efforts to embed carbon literacy within its workforce	Protecting our Environment
SW-02	Sustainable Procurement Compliance and Improvement	Update procurement processes to align with environmental Social Value objectives and comply with the Procurement Act 2025. This includes incorporating Carbon Reduction Plans, setting emission targets for high-value contracts, and delivering staff training on sustainable and circular procurement	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Better understanding and selection of sustainable suppliers	Protecting our Environment Procurement Act 2025 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012
SW-03	Regularly update staff on environmental initiatives	Use internal communications, intranet, and meetings to share updates and resources	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Increased staff engagement and adoption of environmentally conscious work practices	Protecting our Environment

Action id	Action	How will action be achieved	Estimated completion dates	Cost (human and financial)	Funding	Desired outcome	Corporate Priority/ Strategy Supported
SW-04	Hybrid working	Promote hybrid working to reduce travel and encourage the use of Teams meetings where appropriate	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Reduced carbon footprint through decreased staff commuting and business travel	Protecting our Environment
SW-05	Digital first	Encourage paperless working by promoting online services and offering digital alternatives to printed correspondence. Use SMS and email for reminders and updates	Ongoing	Low	Internal	Increased efficiency, reduced paper use, and improved digital engagement	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities
SW-06	Ufest Climate Area	Develop and promote a dedicated area at Ufest to engage attendees in climate action and sustainability messaging	2025/2026	Low	Internal	Raised community awareness and engagement on climate and environmental issues	Protecting our Environment Supporting our Communities

Glossary of Terms

Adaptation: Adjustments in systems, behaviours, and infrastructure in response to actual or expected climate impacts, such as flooding or extreme heat, to reduce harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Baseline Emissions: The starting point for measuring carbon emissions, used to track progress and model reduction pathways. Maldon District Council's baseline was established in 2022/23.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): A mandatory approach under the Environment Act 2021 that requires new developments to deliver at least a 10% improvement in biodiversity value compared to the pre-development baseline. This ensures measurable ecological enhancements on-site or via off-site compensatory measures, helping to reverse biodiversity loss and promote nature recovery.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e): A standard unit for measuring greenhouse gas emissions. It expresses the impact of different gases (such as methane or nitrous oxide) in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same global warming potential, enabling comparison and aggregation of emissions.

Carbon Neutral: Achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing emissions produced with emissions removed or offset, typically at an organisational or operational level.

Circular Economy: An economic model that prioritises reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products to extend their life cycle and reduce waste and resource extraction.

Climate Action Plan (CAP): A detailed action plan outlining how the Council will deliver its climate goals. The 2025–2028 CAP includes key initiatives under five impact areas.

Climate Resilience: The capacity of communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure to withstand, adapt to, and recover from the effects of climate change.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS): A national scheme requiring consumers to pay a small deposit on drinks containers, refunded upon return, to reduce littering and promote recycling.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): A UK government policy mechanism placing a cap on the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by sectors covered under the scheme, encouraging reductions through tradeable allowances.

Packaging extended Producer Responsibility (PePR): Legislation requiring producers to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of the products they place on the market, including end-of-life disposal and recycling costs.

GHG (Greenhouse Gases): Gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming and climate change.

LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund): A UK Government fund designed to support local authorities in planning and delivering public electric vehicle (EV) charge points. LEVI helps ensure accessible and reliable EV infrastructure in areas without off-street parking, promoting equitable access to low-carbon transport.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP): A strategic plan developed by local authorities to identify and prioritise improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure. LCWIPs aim to create safer, more accessible routes that encourage active travel, reduce car dependency, and support health and environmental goals.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): A spatial strategy required under the Environment Act 2021 that identifies priorities and opportunities for nature recovery in a local area. LNRSs aim to support better coordination of conservation efforts, inform land-use planning, and guide investment in biodiversity and natural capital. Maldon District contributes to and aligns with the Essex LNRS.

Mitigation: Actions taken to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases, such as improving energy efficiency, transitioning to renewables, or promoting low-carbon travel.

Net Zero: A state where all greenhouse gas emissions produced are balanced by removals, through natural or technological means, by a specified date (e.g., 2050 for Maldon District Council).

ORCS (On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme): A government grant scheme providing funding to local authorities for the installation of on-street EV charge points. ORCS supports the transition to electric vehicles by making charging more convenient for residents without private driveways.

Scope 1, 2, 3 Emissions: Standard categories for reporting organisational emissions:

- Scope 1: Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity
- Scope 3: All other indirect emissions (e.g. procurement, business travel)

Simpler Recycling: A UK Government reform to harmonise waste collection services across England, ensuring all households and businesses can recycle the same core materials.

Sustainable Working:

Practices embedded in daily Council operations to reduce environmental impact—such as hybrid working, digital services, low-carbon procurement, and green commuting.

Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs): Vehicles that produce no exhaust emissions during operation, typically powered by electricity or hydrogen fuel cells.

References

- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2022.
- UK Government. Climate Change Act 2008.
- Climate Change Committee. Sixth Carbon Budget Report.
- Essex Climate Action Commission. Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral.

Photo credits

Page 3: Aerial view of Maldon Hythe Quay
– Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 5: Child at Our Wild Local Space (OWLS) – Credit: Heybridge & Maldon Climate Action Partnership (HMCAP)

Page 5: H. Phillips at COP26
– Credit: H. Phillips

Page 5: Inaugural Heybridge & Maldon Climate Action Partnership
– Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 7: Aerial view of Tollesbury –
Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 12: Sunset at Heybridge Creek – Credit: HMCAP

Page 14: Wind turbines at Dengie
– Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 15: Man installing solar panels on roof
– Credit: Shutterstock

Page 15: Energy Performance Certificate – Credit: Shutterstock

Page 16: Person cycling
– Credit: Shutterstock

Page 16: Electric vehicle charging
– Credit: Shutterstock

Page 17: Tree planting at OWLS
– Credit: HMCAP

Page 17: Seagrass
– Credit: Essex Wildlife Trust

Page 18: SUEZ recycling vehicle
– Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 19: Man walking
– Credit: Shutterstock

Page 22: Photo from UFest Maldon 2024 – Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 22: St Lawrence Community Orchard – Credit: L. Flack

Page 22: Inscribed tree stump at OWLS – Credit: HMCAP

Page 23: Trees in Cold Norton
– Credit: Maldon District Council

Page 24: Tree planting
– Credit: Maldon District Council

maldon.gov.uk

