

South Cambridgeshire District Council Climate and Nature Strategy (2026–2030)

Why this strategy matters


Climate change isn't just about local weather – it's part of a much bigger global challenge that is already affecting communities, wildlife, and the places we care about.

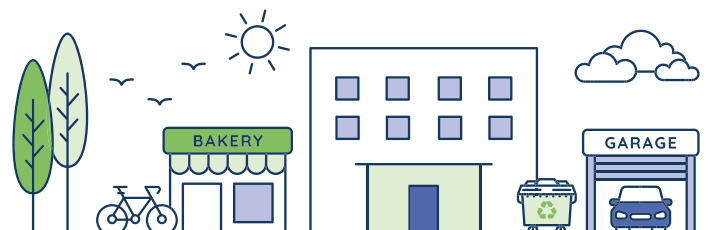
South Cambridgeshire is experiencing some of these impacts firsthand, from hotter summers to heavier rainfall, which shows how connected we are to worldwide climate and nature pressures. By taking action now, we can play our part in creating a healthier, more resilient future for everyone.

Our vision

We want South Cambridgeshire to be a leader in taking action on climate change and protecting nature. This means reducing carbon emissions, protecting wildlife, and helping our communities cope with climate change.



 Learn more about the strategy and find resources.





Where we are taking action

1. Cutting Carbon Emissions

We are setting an example by reducing carbon emissions from our buildings and vehicles. This includes upgrading buildings to need less energy to run, generating our own renewable energy, and switching to electric vehicles so local air is cleaner for everyone. Cleaner air means healthier lungs, safer cycling and walking, and a fresher environment around your school and neighbourhood.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Nature

We are working with communities to protect more land for nature. We plan to create new spaces for nature to thrive by planting trees, creating wildflower meadows, and protecting special habitats like chalk streams. More natural spaces mean better places to explore, relax, and enjoy nature with friends.

3. Adapting to Climate Change

We are helping everyone prepare for hotter summers, heavier rain, and other climate impacts. We want to create more cool spaces - like shaded

areas or buildings which stay cool - to help during heatwaves. Cooler, safer spaces mean more comfortable summers and fewer disruptions to school and activities.

4. Supporting Sustainable Food

We are encouraging local food growing, promoting healthy eating and reducing food waste. Local, fresh food can taste better, save money, and help the planet at the same time.

5. Minimising Waste

We are encouraging people to reduce waste through repairing broken things and second-hand shopping. Repairing, reusing, and recycling saves money, cuts pollution, and reduces the amount of rubbish in our streets and parks.

6. Inspiring Community Action

We need your help to do this! We are asking students and the whole community to learn about climate change and nature and share top tips to raise awareness and encourage other people to also take part. Young people are some of the strongest voices for change.



What can you do?

Each action matters - and when everyone gets involved, the impact adds up. Here are some ways you can help:

Save energy:

You can turn off lights, unplug devices or use an app/timer to control uses of devices/gaming consoles.

Take shorter showers. Long, hot showers use lots of hot water and need more energy to heat them. Setting a short timer helps cut energy use without much effort (and saves water too!).

Protect nature:

Grow flowers for pollinators – check out the Eden Project for resources to support you and your classmates to plant wildflower habitats at schools.

Support local species like hedgehogs, bats, birds and insects in your own garden or in a community space.

Eat sustainably:

Experiment with growing your own food! Peas, carrots and courgettes can be a fun and easy way to start.

Try adopting a more climate-friendly diet with foods that have a reduced carbon footprint such as those grown more locally or which need less land and water to grow

Try a “First in, First out” method in your fridge, moving older snacks to the front of your fridge.

Recycle and reduce waste:

Organise an event at your school or community centre to collect old or broken smartphones, chargers, and tablets. Bonus: if you partner with some retailers, they will track how many grams of precious metals are saved from landfill.

Buy second hand or refurbished electronics when upgrading your own where possible.

Look to shop second-hand for clothing or learn skills to mend and repair damaged pieces, before shopping new.



Get involved:

Join local environmental groups, attend events, or volunteer for nature projects.

Find out if your school has an eco-council or group you can join; or set one up if it doesn't!

Volunteer for local environmental groups like the, Young People's forum (Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire) or Cambourne Area Youth Rangers or look for work experience opportunities in a climate-related role



Why your actions matter

Each action matters - and when everyone gets involved, the impact adds up.

By making more conscious choices, you can help reduce emissions, protect wildlife, and create a healthier planet for everyone. You have a powerful voice which can help shape our future. By getting involved, you can help create a greener, fairer future for South Cambridgeshire.



Want to learn more or get involved?

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment to find resources, events, and ways to take action.

Sign up for our Zero Carbon Communities newsletter to stay updated on local projects and opportunities.

