



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

# Climate and Nature Strategy (2026–2030)

## Why this strategy matters

South Cambridgeshire is already experiencing the effects of climate change: hotter summers, heavier rainfall, increased flood risk, pressure on water supplies, and declining wildlife. The district is also growing rapidly, creating both challenges and opportunities.

This strategy sets out how the Council will respond - protecting nature, cutting carbon emissions, and helping communities become prepared for the impacts of climate change.

## Our vision

We envision a South Cambridgeshire that leads boldly in climate action - championing climate initiatives, fosters environmental stewardship, protects and enhances nature, and builds resilience for the district. Through this work we aim to nurture sustainable economic growth, innovation and development, social equity, and community wellbeing.

## Key targets

### 1. Cut carbon emissions

- Reduce emissions from Council buildings and operations by 75% by 2030.
- Cut area-wide emissions by 50% by 2030 and aim for Net Zero by 2050.

### 2. Protect and enhance nature

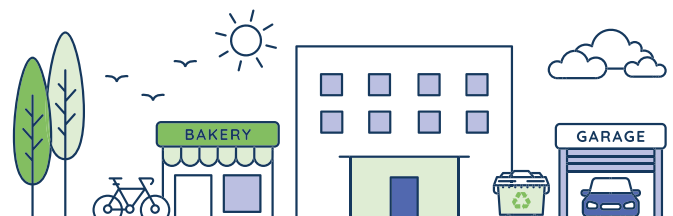
- Double the amount of land managed for nature from 7% to 14% by 2050.

### 3. Adapt to climate change

- Ensure communities in South Cambridgeshire are resilient to a 2°C increase in global temperature (from pre-industrial levels).



Learn more about the strategy, find resources, and apply for grants.



## What the strategy focuses on

The strategy is framed by eight main areas that shape daily life and are where we have focussed our actions to have the greatest impact

### Adaptation and resilience



Helping communities and vulnerable residents prepare for extreme weather by offering warm hubs in the winter and cool spaces in summer, supporting local emergency plans and strengthening partnerships with emergency services. This includes helping people ensure their homes and businesses are resilient to future climate-related impacts.

### Energy and retrofit



Making homes and buildings warmer, cheaper to heat and more efficient to run, through building upgrades, grants, energy advice, and higher standards for new developments.

### Sustainable food



Supporting allotments, community orchards, food hubs and farmers' markets whilst reducing food waste and promoting local, healthy food.

### Transport



Reducing emissions from transport by electrifying bin lorries, supporting EV charging, improving walking and cycling networks, and working with regional transport partners.



### Nature and water



Restoring wildlife and habitats, planting trees, improving rivers and streams, protecting chalk streams and supporting nature-friendly farming.

### Waste minimisation



Supporting repair cafés and reuse schemes and engaging communities and businesses to increase local recycling rates.

### Community support and behaviour change



Helping communities take action through grants, events, training, newsletters, and practical guidance.

### Businesses, supply chain, and finance



Supporting businesses to reduce emissions, manage resources sustainably and build green skills, whilst working to strengthen the local supply chain.



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## What this means for you

The strategy aims to create a district that is:

- **Greener**, with more wildlife and high-quality green spaces
- **Healthier**, with cleaner air and homes that are well-equipped for all seasons
- **Fairer**, supporting everyone, including those most vulnerable
- **More prepared** to deal with the current and future impacts of climate change.



Here are practical actions you can start taking today, along with the benefits you'll feel in your home, street, and community.

### At home: Save energy, stay comfortable

#### Take action

- Make small energy-saving changes (switch off unused appliances, improve draught-proofing).
- Explore grants and advice to upgrade insulation, heating systems or install solar panels.
- Use water wisely, such as shorter showers or installing water-saving devices.

#### Benefits to you

- Lower energy bills and reduced running costs.
- A warmer home in winter and cooler spaces in summer.
- Greater comfort and resilience during extreme weather.

### Getting around: Cleaner, cheaper, easier travel

#### Take action

- Walk or cycle short journeys.
- Use local bus routes or park-and-ride services where available.
- Switch to an electric vehicle at the end of vehicle life or make use of new EV chargers across the district.

#### Benefits to you

- Cleaner air and healthier, more active travel.
- Reduced fuel costs.
- Less congestion and safer streets.





## Nature and green spaces: Support wildlife where you live

### Take action

- Plant trees, wildflowers, or wildlife-friendly plants in your garden.
- Reduce pesticides and create spaces for pollinators.
- Join local community groups to restore rivers, habitats, or green spaces.

### Benefits to you

- More attractive neighbourhoods with thriving wildlife.
- Better access to high-quality green spaces.
- Improved wellbeing from being closer to nature.

## Community and local projects: Take part and make a difference

### Take action

- Volunteer with a community group or local climate initiative.
- Attend workshops, events, or training sessions run by the Council.
- Apply for community grants to support local environmental projects.

### Benefits to you

- Stronger community connections and shared purpose.
- Funding and practical support for projects you care about.
- Greater community resilience during extreme events.



## Food and waste: Save money and reduce waste

### Take action

- Grow your own vegetables in gardens, balconies, or community allotments.
- Shop locally and support farmers' markets and community food hubs.
- Cut food waste by planning meals and utilising the Council's separate food waste collections.
- Repair, reuse, or donate items instead of throwing them away.

### Benefits to you

- Healthier, fresh, affordable food.
- Lower household waste and clutter.
- A stronger, more connected local economy.

## Get involved

Visit [www.scams.gov.uk/climate-and-environment](http://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-and-environment) to learn more about the strategy, find resources, and apply for grants.

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

