



# Climate and Nature Strategy (2026–2030)

## Why this strategy matters

South Cambridgeshire is facing serious challenges from climate change and the loss of nature. Hotter summers, heavier rainfall, and declining biodiversity are affecting our communities, homes, and local environment.

The Council plays an essential role in leading by example and bringing together people from across the district to accelerate progress.

Communities have a vital role in helping adapt to these changes, protect nature, and reduce carbon emissions.

This strategy outlines how South Cambridgeshire District Council plans to tackle these challenges and how communities can get involved to make a difference.

Local climate action is at the heart of South Cambridgeshire's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, protect and enhance nature, and adapt to a changing climate. You have the power to bring people together, inspire change, and create local solutions. By working with the Council and other partners, you can help make South Cambridgeshire a greener, healthier, and more resilient place for everyone.

## Our vision

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



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



## 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).

## 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 prepare for extreme weather, supporting local emergency plans and strengthening partnerships. This ensures people have practical places to go and coordinated support during floods, storms, heatwaves, and other climate-related events.

### 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.



# How communities can help



## 1 Lead local climate action

- Become familiar with your **local Parish Emergency Plan** to prepare for extreme weather events like flooding or heatwaves, which are created to help residents identify local resources, volunteers, and facilities that can be used in an emergency.
- Organise or participate in local initiatives to protect and enhance nature such as **tree planting, wildflower areas, or rewilding** projects.
- Encourage others to adopt **water-saving habits**.
- **Identify and leverage strategic funding opportunities** for climate and nature projects in South Cambridgeshire.
- **Join or form a local group** to learn about climate action topics and develop ideas to act on climate change.



## 2 Promote sustainable food practices

- Participate in and support **existing community food growing projects** like allotments, orchards, and gardens.
- Engage in opportunities to **learn more about reducing food waste and eating sustainably**.



## 3 Reduce waste and promote recycling

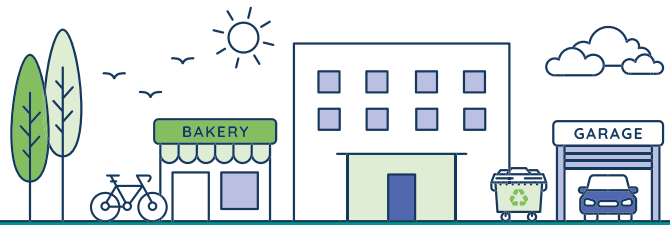
- Host or support repair cafes, swap events, and reuse programmes to reduce waste.
- Create a dedicated community “lending locker” through a a with a community centre or library.

## 4 Engage and educate your community

- **Organise workshops and activities** to inspire residents to take action.
- **Collaborate** with other community groups, schools, and businesses to **amplify your impact**.
- Act as a channel to **boost engagement on Council-led messages** on climate change and nature through **re-sharing of newsletters, social media, and events**.



# How we can support you



We are committed to helping you succeed in your efforts to tackle climate change and protect nature. Here's how we can support you:

## Grants

Funding opportunities like the Zero Carbon Communities Grant, Community Chest Grant and Six Free Trees Grant to support local projects.

## Resources

Guides, toolkits, and advice on topics like energy efficiency, water conservation, and nature protection:



### Zero Carbon Communities

[www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities)



### Information for community groups on climate action

[www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/information-for-community-groups](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/information-for-community-groups)



### Community involvement and projects on nature

[www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/nature-recovery/community-involvementand-projects](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/nature-recovery/community-involvementand-projects)



### Home energy upgrade support - Action on Energy

[www.actiononenergycambs.org/](http://www.actiononenergycambs.org/)

## Events

Annual Local Climate Action Conference, webinars, and workshops to share knowledge and connect groups.

## Communication Support

Help with promoting your initiatives through newsletters, social media, and Council communications.



## Get involved

Together, we can make a difference!

Visit [www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment](http://www.scambs.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.

