





The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

OUR JOURNEY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

 Suffolk's public sector leaders have all set out and committed to pursue net zero strategies in our own organisations that respond to local, national and international evidence. Furthermore, we will all work together to support and guide our residents, communities and businesses to make the changes required to best set Suffolk on the path for carbon neutrality by 2030. 

Foreword

As this plan is published, we are emerging from a pandemic that has changed the way we live our lives, and we are beginning to build the new normal we wish for. The challenges and constraints we are facing help us to focus on what is important. That is why this plan is at the heart of our sustainable recovery strategy.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have worked together as never before, each of us doing our part in protecting one another and ourselves. We have seen a rewiring of the country to deliver health care, protect the vulnerable and support the economy. That ability to come together to meet a critical need is the foundation of this plan, which will only work by engaging our residents, communities, and businesses.

Behaviour change is a big ask. Here in Suffolk, the public sector began the journey in 2007 with the [Suffolk Climate Change Partnership](#), but other individuals and initiatives have been working far longer. We are fortunate to be building on their knowledge and commitment.

Some of our residents face acute challenges and may feel unable to take on saving the planet. Our energy actions take those residents into account by helping to ease fuel poverty, create new skills and job opportunities and to improve wellbeing.

This is not going to be simple. We know where we want to get to, but we'll need to build many of the stepping stones to get there. We are confident that Suffolk will do this and lead the way.

Signed Cllr Matthew Hicks,

Chair Suffolk Public Sector Leaders

SPSL members

Councillor Matthew Hicks (Chair), Leader of [Suffolk County Council](#)

- Councillor John Ward, Leader of [Babergh District Council](#)
- Councillor Suzie Morley, Leader of [Mid Suffolk District Council](#)
- Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of [West Suffolk Council](#)
- Councillor Steve Gallant, Leader of [East Suffolk Council](#)
- Councillor David Ellesmere, Leader of [Ipswich Borough Council](#)
- Ed Garratt, Chief Officer, [East Suffolk & Ipswich CCG and West Suffolk CCG](#)
- Melanie Craig, Chief Officer, [NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG](#)
- Tim Passmore, [Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner](#)
- C-J Green, Chair, [New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership](#)

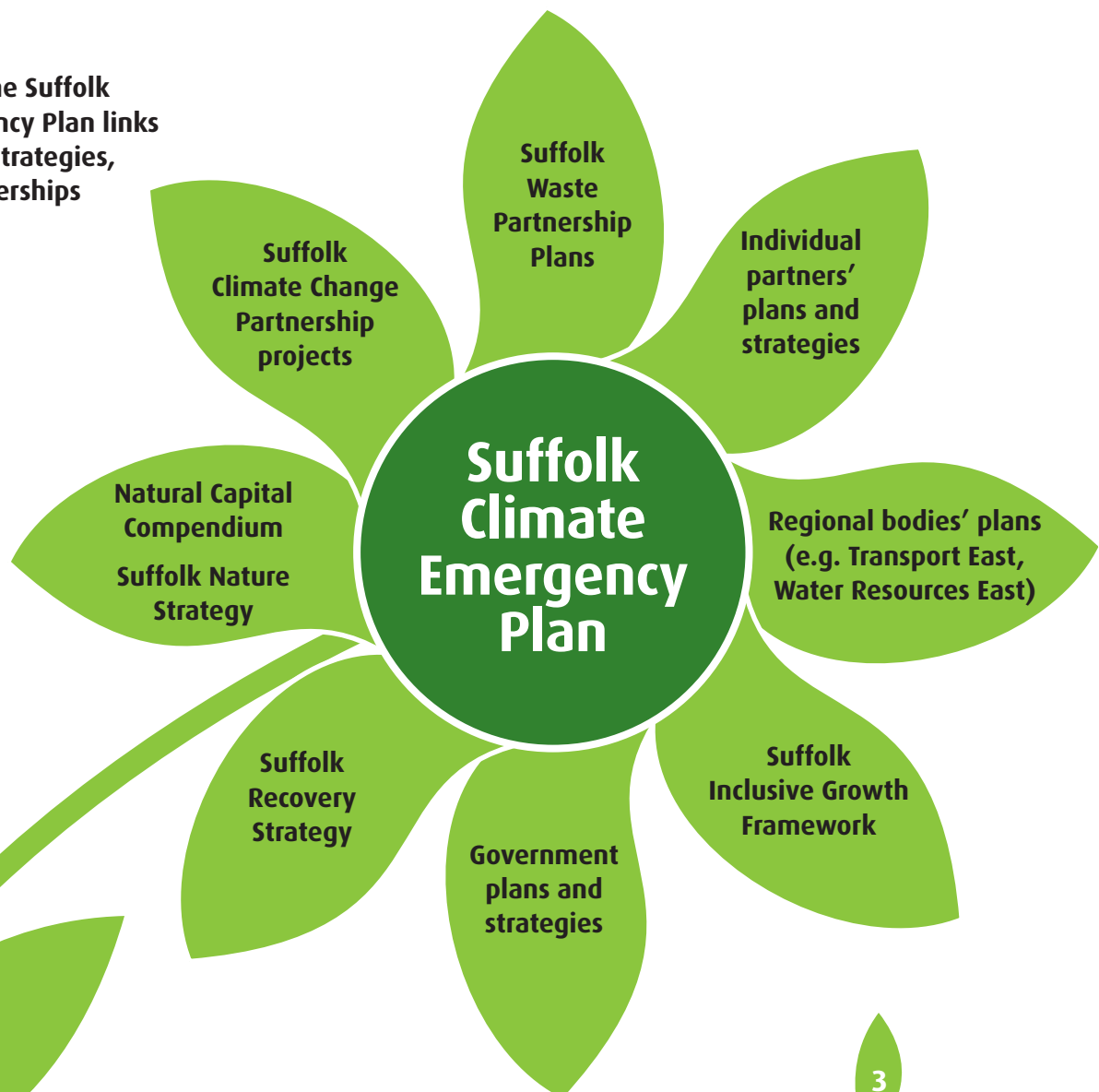
Introduction

This plan is for use by everyone living, working and visiting Suffolk. The leaders of Suffolk's public sector have put carbon neutral plans in place for their own organisations (including health, local government and other public bodies). They are now committing to work together to support, advise and encourage residents, communities and businesses to make the changes required to best set Suffolk on the path for carbon neutrality by 2030. But for this journey to be successful it will also need positive support from Government.

It is a living plan, and this is the first step in a journey to learn how to make climate action part of our daily lives. It is ambitious, because the actions we take now will fundamentally affect the lives of young people and coming generations in Suffolk. It is also only one among other crises that people in the county are experiencing, with the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and leaving the EU. We are addressing these crises through Suffolk's sustainable recovery strategy.

The plan focuses on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and clean power generation and interacts with action being taken in other areas, shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: How the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan links with other key strategies, plans and partnerships



High level picture

Carbon neutrality and net zero emissions are both terms that mean a balance between GHG emissions into and removals from the earth's atmosphere.

GHG emissions removal technologies (such as carbon capture and storage or direct air capture of carbon) can take carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere. However, they are not likely to be implemented at scale by 2030, so won't be a big part of our journey in the next ten years. Other options for removals, such as the land-use solutions offered by forests and soils, currently remove less than 5% of Suffolk's total CO₂ emissions. While there is some scope for increasing this, the scale of the challenge means considerable cuts in GHG emissions are needed to deliver carbon neutrality.

Furthermore, those GHG emissions removals are likely to be needed to offset any remaining in harder to tackle sectors, such as agriculture. This means that the energy sectors – buildings, transport, industry, and power – need to reduce emissions to almost zero. In brief, this means that:

- 1** homes and other buildings need to become more energy efficient, so they need less energy to power them. And the supply of heat needs to be fully decarbonised, for example, by replacing gas boilers with heat pumps or low carbon heat networks.
- 2** transport needs to be decarbonised by encouraging people to reduce their travel, use (low carbon) public transport where possible and replace petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles with zero carbon vehicles.
- 3** industry needs to reduce its energy use and switch to zero carbon fuels such as solar, wind and hydrogen.
- 4** electricity supply needs to become zero carbon, switching generation from fossil fuels to renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind.



The approach – sectors, goals and priority actions

We have identified over 100 actions to work towards achieving carbon neutrality, spread across five sectors:

1. Collaborative action;
2. Sustainable homes;
3. Low carbon transport;
4. Industrial and commercial energy use; and
5. Cleaner power.

These actions have been grouped into outcomes, and these outcomes further grouped into high level goals for each of the sectors:

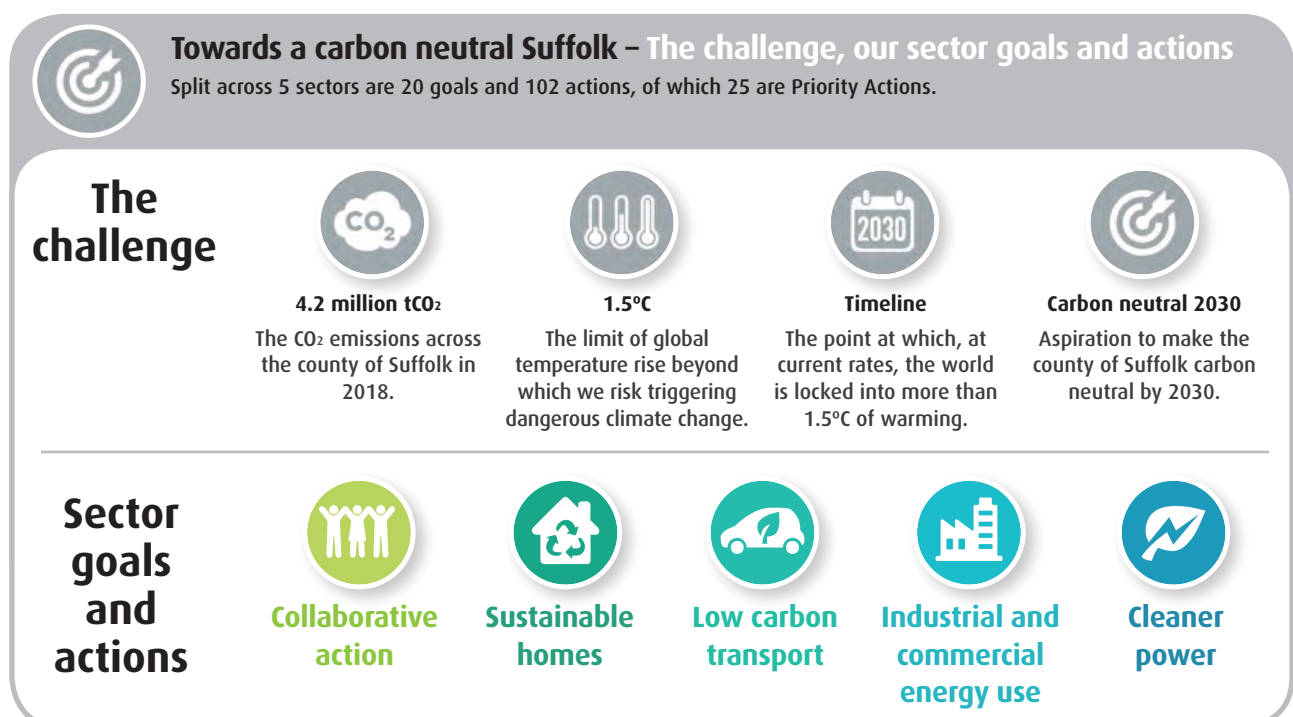
- **Goals** – what needs to happen in each sector to deliver carbon neutrality.
- **Outcomes** – what we expect to result from achieving the goals.
- **Actions** – what needs to happen to deliver the outcomes and goals.

This Climate Emergency Plan lists the top five priority actions in each sector, to help provide focus. In essence, what is needed is for carbon neutrality to become embedded in everything we all do, with a new mindset to ensure Suffolk is as low carbon as possible.

Of the over 100 actions we've identified as part of this plan, the 25 Priority Actions give us an indication of where we can accelerate and add to what we are already doing. The 20 goals will keep us focussed on the direction we need to go in and allow us to work towards them in a way that provides flexibility.



Figure 2: Towards a carbon neutral Suffolk – The challenge, our sector goals and actions

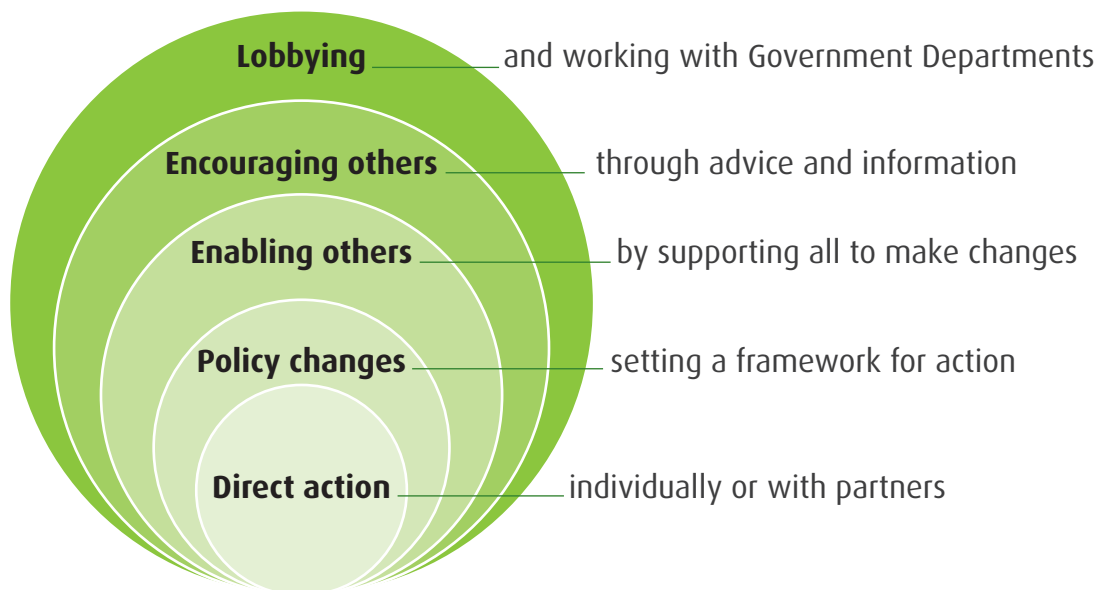


Working together to achieve change

Typically, the GHG emissions that public sector partners have direct control over – from the buildings we own and the vehicles we run – represent 2-5% of total GHG emissions. Working together in committing to carbon neutrality, we are providing leadership for the county to move forwards together.

Local authorities have influence over other local emissions through their place-making powers and duties. But even then, this only influences around a third of total emissions in the area¹. Our journey to carbon neutrality in Suffolk therefore requires action from businesses, individuals, skills and training providers and the wider community. It will also be affected by national issues, such as the carbon intensity of grid electricity. Suffolk's public sector will work collaboratively with others who have a role in our journey and lobby national Government to put in place the appropriate legislative, policy and financial framework to support this transition.

Figure 3: Public sector spheres of influence



¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>

Accountability and review

Each of us are accountable to future generations for the stewardship of our lovely county. This plan has the commitment of the public sector, who will guide it, work to remove barriers and enable action. However, the plan will need to foster extensive, fluid collaborations to share learning, problem solve and challenge us all to deliver. A meaningful measurement dashboard will be developed with data owners, together with a review programme that can adapt to provide specific information as needed. Figures tend to tell us what has happened, while we need to be working in the present and looking ahead. As such, sharing stories will be just as important for monitoring progress and spotting trends, which we'll do through collaborative action.





Sector 1: Collaborative action

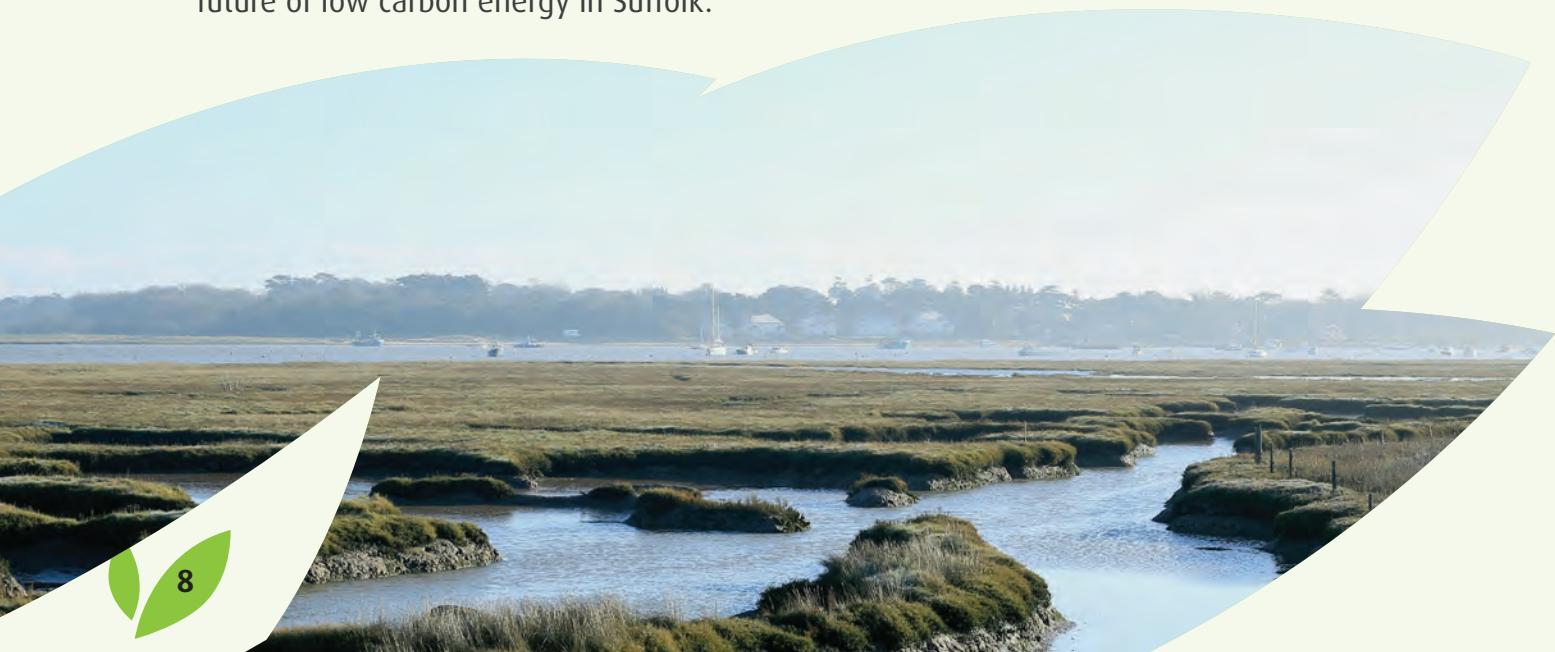
The task ahead of us is enormous. Achieving it will require every part of society to contribute, enabled through new forms of collaboration. This action is fundamental to the plan, creating a foundation for delivery across all sectors and giving a platform for partners to showcase what is being done. It builds on the energy that was created in developing this plan, and leverages what is already happening on the ground.

To achieve carbon neutrality, 62% of GHG emissions reductions will come from either behaviour change with technology or behaviour change alone. This being the case, all parts of society – public sector, businesses, and communities (individuals themselves, community and third sector groups) – will need to be engaged and informed through an education, engagement and behaviour change programme in order to play their part. Driving behavioural change can address fuel poverty with home insulation, strengthen neighbourhoods with community energy groups and car shares and grow the local economy with support for low carbon businesses.

Community groups, charities, schools and youth organisations, community businesses and local social enterprises have been working on the ground for decades to achieve environmental and climate action. Leveraging this work can unlock climate action across all sectors, including carbon offsetting by reducing GHG emissions through biodiversity initiatives.

In creating this plan, we brought together a diverse range of business, community and professional interests and individuals to workshop the plan's themes, challenge the data and discuss the conclusions. This is the beginning of a collaborative journey we will share with all those wishing to engage. The journey is designed to:

- **maximise the opportunity** to build on our local expertise and companies, ensuring the economic wealth from the sector is kept within Suffolk;
- **leverage public and private sector investment** to support innovation, business growth and job creation; and,
- **work with central Government** to develop strategies that support our ambition for the future of low carbon energy in Suffolk.





Goals



Goal 1 – Education, engagement, and behaviour change programme

This overarching goal establishes a mass public engagement campaign and a climate action information hub. It also creates opportunities for communities to come together to discuss and develop their own local climate plans.



Goal 2 – Leveraging community action

The goal has two objectives: the first is to support existing community climate action so it can reach new levels; the second is to galvanise new community action.



Goal 3 – Fostering further stakeholder and supplier collaboration

This seeks to build on the goodwill and engagement that was created in the development of this plan, by providing opportunities for stakeholders to continue to convene, collaborate, learn, and innovate. In addition, it aims to build on the Suffolk public sector's collective purchasing power to drive further sustainability improvements within their supply chain and potential local markets in Suffolk.



Goal 4 – Financing local climate action

Delivering carbon neutrality will involve significant investment so finance will be crucial, including the important task of accessing available government funds for climate action. An analysis of the various sources of funding would be needed to establish the most economic source of debt via an options appraisal.



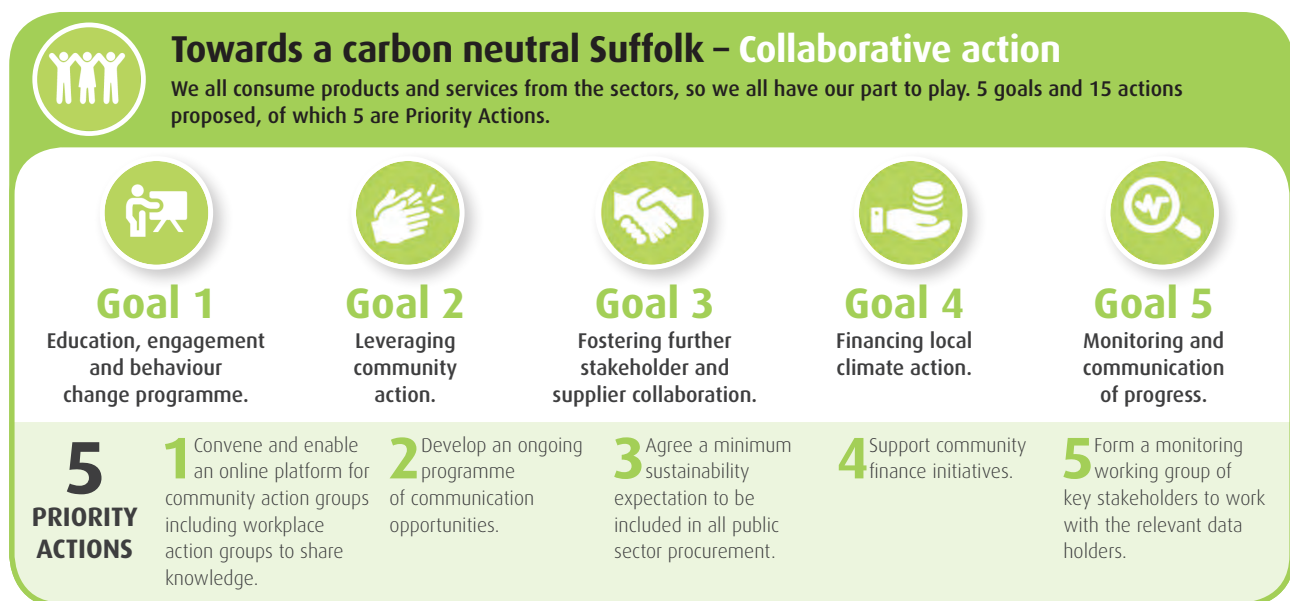
Goal 5 – Monitoring and communication of progress

Tracking and communicating progress is important for learning, sharing stories and keeping communities engaged on the journey. By ensuring that progress is measured and that there is consistent engagement among partners and communities, this goal is key for the long-term viability of the plan.

Priority actions

- 1** Convene and enable an online platform for community action groups to share knowledge, be a market place for support and provide access to wider information.
- 2** Develop an ongoing programme of collaboration opportunities, by establishing a communication network and working groups for delivering the action plan.
- 3** Agree a minimum sustainability expectation to be included in all public sector procurement. This will support suppliers on their journey to be carbon net zero, recognising that the cost of change will vary between markets, and that some markets will be further on their journey to reduce their carbon impact than others.
- 4** Support community finance initiatives, such as community municipal bonds.
- 5** Form a monitoring working group of key stakeholders to work with the relevant data holders to develop a framework of indicators that will be used on an annual basis to take stock of progress.

Figure 4: Collaborative action – Goals and priority actions





Sector 2: Sustainable homes

Homes accounted for over 25% of CO₂ emissions in Suffolk in 2018. To achieve carbon neutrality in Suffolk, the homes sector will need to reduce its GHG emissions practically to zero. Changing how homes are heated is critical. However, two other goals are important: preparing for new technology; and reducing electricity usage to help manage the increasing demands on the electricity grid. Other measures for homes include electric vehicle (EV) charging points and rooftop solar installations, linking into initiatives for transport and clean power. Energy efficiency measures can ease fuel poverty, contributing to a sustainable recovery.

Goals



Goal 1 – Transition to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes.

Heat decarbonisation is a priority for Suffolk. Depending on how much demand can be met by scoping heat networks, 300,000 or more homes in Suffolk may need heat pumps by 2030. This would represent a significant expansion of roll-out of this technology.



Goal 2 – Improved energy efficiency of homes.

Alongside roll-out of low carbon heating, homes will need to become more energy efficient, especially as heat pumps only work effectively in buildings that are thermally efficient.



Goal 3 – Behavioural change to use less energy.

All of this will need to be supported by dissemination of information and engagement, so that homeowners and occupiers are aware of the need to transform how much heat is needed in their homes.

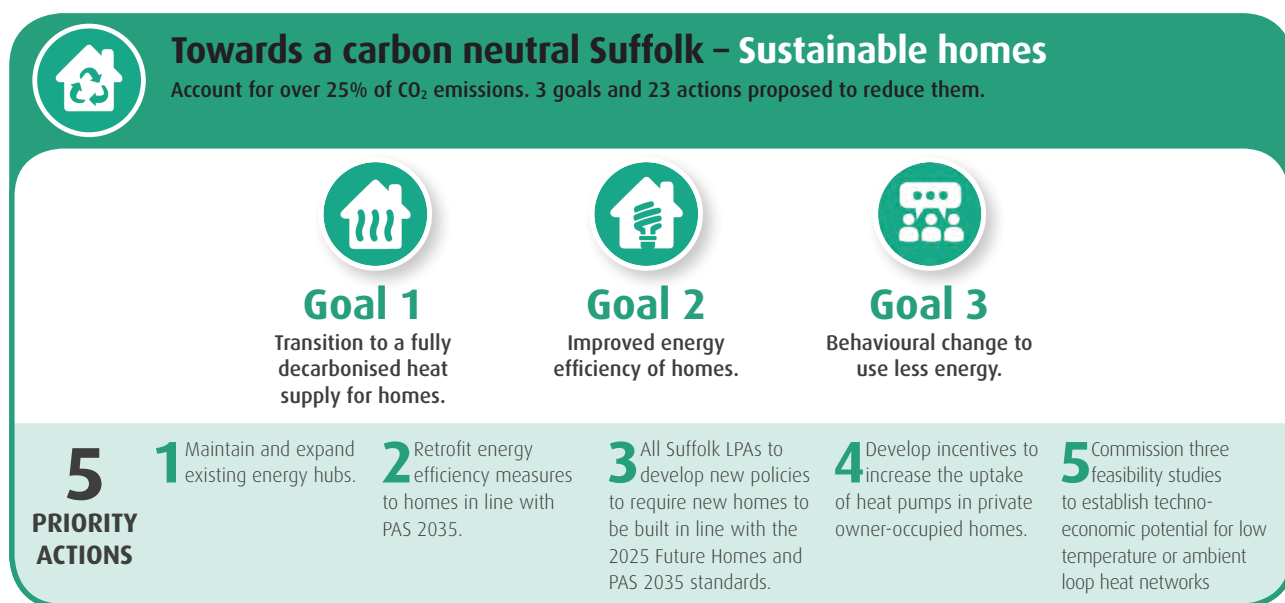
Priority actions

- 1 Maintain and expand existing energy hubs** providing information and support to access funding for energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating.
- 2 Retrofit energy efficiency measures to homes**, in line with PAS 2035², supported by audits where needed, in line with national policies and funding schemes and linked to Building Control to ensure appropriate application advice is provided.

² https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/PAS_2035

- 3 All Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop new policies** to require new homes to be built in line with the 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards, including heat pumps or new heat networks or connection to existing heat networks.
- 4 Develop incentives to increase the uptake of heat pumps** in private owner-occupied homes in line with 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards.
- 5 Commission three feasibility studies** to establish the techno-economic potential for low temperature or ambient loop heat networks in Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds and smaller urban areas if applicable.

Figure 5: Sustainable homes – Goals and priority actions



Tracking progress

The key indicators to track progress in tackling carbon emissions from our homes include: the number of heat pumps installed each year; the number of connections to low carbon heat networks in urban areas; proportion of heat demand met by low carbon heat; and average EPC ratings of homes in Suffolk.

Carbon emissions reduction potential

An assessment of the potential contribution of the sustainable homes goals to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 suggests that each goal could reduce total CO₂ emissions by:

- Decarbonisation of heat - 11%
- Improved building efficiency – 4%
- Behavioural change - 1%



Sector 3: Low carbon transport

Transport accounted for over 35% of Suffolk's CO₂ emissions in 2018. Tackling this means removing fossil fuelled vehicles from our roads. The focus will predominantly be on promoting electric vehicles until other zero emission fuels are available, but this does not mean replacing all vehicles. Suffolk is looking to reduce transport demand and encourage a shift to less carbon intensive modes, such as walking, cycling and public transport. As a rural county, this will be challenging.

The four overarching goals for transport in Suffolk are based around reducing car and freight use and electrifying what is left. Lowering traffic and encouraging alternative means of travel are readily influenced by local policy. However, the electrification of the vehicle fleet is likely to come through national level policy. Given the need to act rapidly, all areas will be progressed in parallel.

Transport actions all support one another - for example, reducing car use reduces the amount of electrification needed, while interaction with the power sector is key to manage increased demand on the grid. Some wider benefits include the health potential of increased active travel, an increased sense of community and a boost to the local economy through working from home, as well as reducing and electrifying traffic levels to improve air quality.

This plan is aligned with Transport East, who are developing a net zero transport pathway for the region <https://www.transporteast.org.uk/>

Goals



Goal 1 – Increase sustainable transport readiness by providing an overarching framework for low carbon travel in Suffolk as a necessary enabling step.



Goal 2 – Reduce demand for car use on main arterial routes.



Goal 3 – More efficient freight from Suffolk's ports to final destinations in the county.

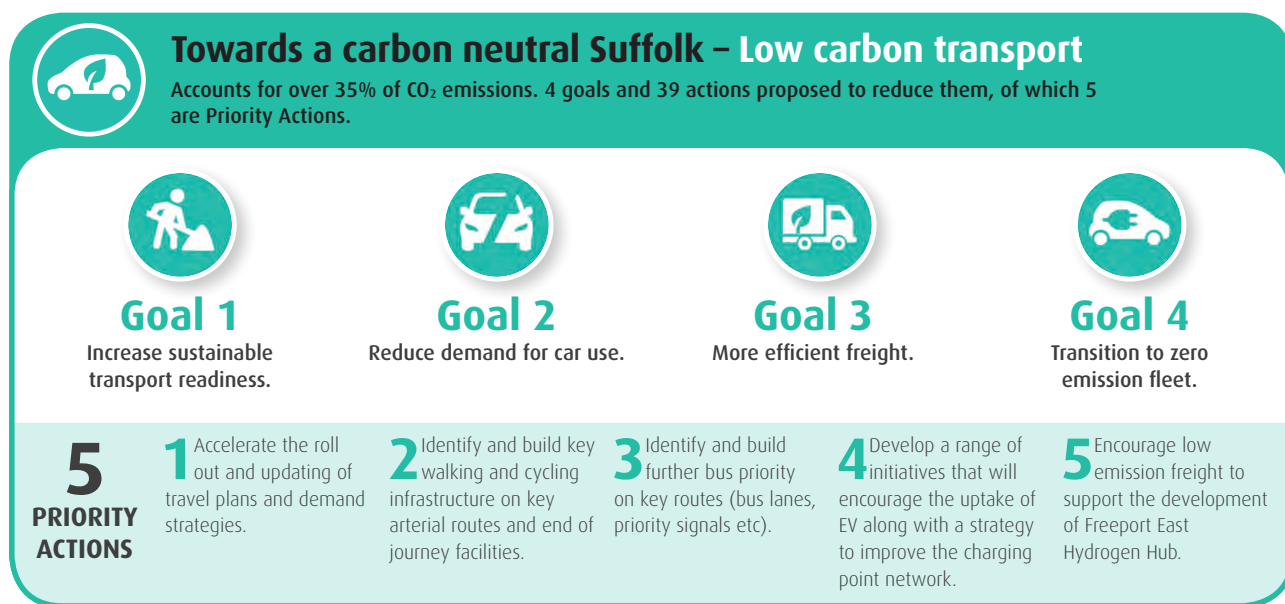


Goal 4 – Transition to zero emissions fleet to ensure that remaining vehicles on the roads in Suffolk are zero emission.

Priority Actions

- 1 Accelerate the roll out and updating of travel plans and demand strategies** with businesses and organisations across the county (such as schools and attractions) and including 'work from home' strategies.
- 2 Identify and build walking and cycling infrastructure** on key arterial routes and end of journey facilities at key nodes (work, public transport, shopping hubs, schools).
- 3 Identify and build further bus priority on key routes** (bus lanes, priority signals etc).
- 4 Develop a range of incentives that will encourage the uptake of EV** along with a strategy to improve the charging point network on public owned property and local business premises.
- 5 Encourage low emission freight to support the development of Freeport East Hydrogen Hub** and promote partnerships between local firms and the Hub so that local carbon reduction benefits can be maximised.

Figure 6: Low carbon transport – Goals and priority actions



Tracking progress

The key indicators to track progress in tackling carbon emissions from transport include: the proportion of trips made by private car, public transport and active travel; the number of businesses and organisations with travel plans; the number of businesses with delivery and servicing plans; the number of electric charging points installed; and the proportion of total car and van fleets that are electric.

Carbon emissions reduction potential

An assessment of the potential contribution of the three quantifiable low carbon transport goals to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 suggest that they could reduce total CO₂ emissions by:

- Reducing car use – 3%
- More efficient freight – 1%
- Zero emission vehicles – 21%



Sector 4: Industrial and commercial energy use

Over 40% of CO₂ emissions in Suffolk in 2018 came from the industrial and commercial sector (I&C), which comprises large and small energy users, including non-domestic buildings. Many businesses are already taking steps, some helped by [Business Energy Efficiency Anglia \(BEE Anglia\)](#) grants, while the [Suffolk Carbon Charter](#) accreditation recognises SMEs' efforts. There is a link to reducing water consumption to reduce emissions from water treatment. And sewage heat is already being used to heat greenhouses and some offices. There is also scope for Suffolk businesses to encourage supply chain emissions reductions.

Goals



Goal 1 – Behavioural change to use less energy in I&C sector

Incentives, knowledge sharing and improvements to monitoring and reporting are important in the next few years while the policy landscape is developed to push for greater transformation in later years. New Anglia LEP will play an important role in supporting collaboration and coordination and signposting to resources through its [Clean Growth Task Force](#).



Goal 2 – Improved energy efficiency of buildings in the commercial sector

We will look for opportunities to continue funding schemes such as BEE Anglia that can help support businesses in implementing energy efficiency measures.



Goal 3 – Heat decarbonisation in the commercial sector

Over 70% of heat energy for the domestic, industry and service sectors comes from burning natural gas³. Heat networks may have potential in the non-domestic sector and public sector partners will support collaboration in linking up potential demand for waste heat with sources in industry.



Goal 4 – More energy efficient industrial processes

Public sector partners will support industrial decarbonisation by facilitating discussions with Suffolk-based industries to share best practice, to identify specific issues and challenges faced by industry in Suffolk. This information will then be fed into national Government to inform their UK-wide industrial decarbonisation strategy.

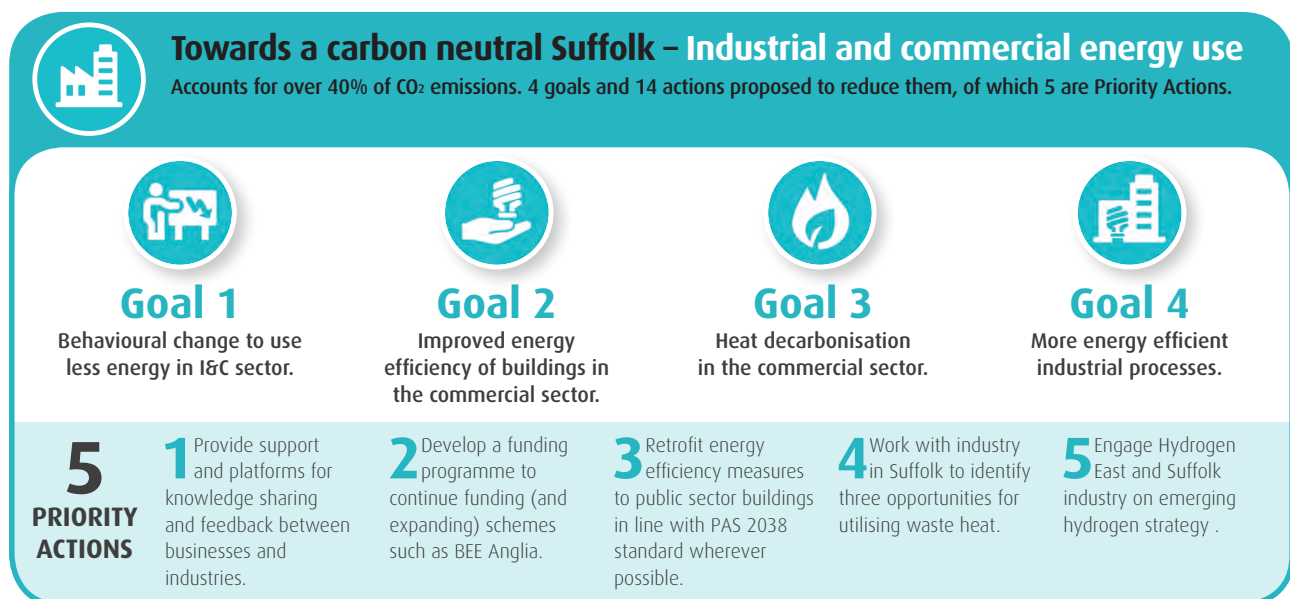
³ Ofgem's Future Insights Series, The Decarbonisation of Heat (2016), p.4, available online at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2016/11/ofgem_future_insights_programme_-_the_decarbonisation_of_heat.pdf

Priority actions

- 1** Provide support and platforms for knowledge sharing and feedback between businesses and industries.
- 2** Develop a funding programme to continue funding (and expanding) schemes such as BEE Anglia or other energy efficiency and support schemes.
- 3** Retrofit energy efficiency measures to public sector buildings in line with PAS 2038 standard wherever possible, supported by audits where needed.
- 4** Work with industry in Suffolk to identify three opportunities for utilising waste heat, including matching of industrial supply and non-industrial demand by 2025.
- 5** Engage with **Hydrogen East** and Suffolk industry on the emerging hydrogen strategy for the region, and then engage with national Government on their emerging hydrogen strategy.

All the above will need financial support. New Anglia LEP, in collaboration with public sector partners, will coordinate Suffolk business inputs into lobbying of national Government for a supportive policy framework for decarbonising business and industry.

Figure 7: Industrial and commercial energy use – Goals and priority actions



Tracking progress

The key indicators to track progress in tackling carbon emissions from the industrial and commercial sector include: the proportion of public sector heat demand met by low carbon heat; the proportion of businesses with adequate insulation; and the utilisation levels of industrial waste heat.

Carbon emissions reduction potential

An assessment of the potential contribution of the industrial and commercial energy goals to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 suggests that each goal could reduce total CO₂ emissions by:

- Behavioural change – 1%
- Improved energy efficiency – 3%
- Heat decarbonisation – 7%
- More efficient industrial processes – 5%



Sector 5: Cleaner power

Emissions from generating electricity in Suffolk (within industrial, commercial, and domestic electricity) account for approximately 19% of total CO₂ emissions. Since 2005, total emissions have decreased due to growing low carbon generation, the retiring of older fossil fuel power stations and increasing energy efficiency. A zero-carbon electricity supply is a key requirement for removing generation emissions and meeting new transport and heating demand. Increasing small-scale renewable generation, such as rooftop solar, will help displace grid electricity, with capacity studies indicating that there is significant potential for new renewable energy development in Suffolk.

Goals



Goal 1 – Grow renewable energy capacity in Suffolk

Supportive energy planning policies in Local Plans will help create a positive framework for both commercial developers and communities to bring forward new renewable energy projects.



Goal 2 – A smart and flexible grid

Even allowing for energy efficiency measures, demand on the grid could be set to double. It is, therefore, important that the grid can operate in a smart and flexible way. UK Power Networks (UKPN), the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) responsible for the electricity distribution network in the East of England, South East and London, has already introduced Active Network Management in Suffolk and its Flexibility Roadmap includes other ways to modernise the local grid. Public sector partners will encourage strategic collaboration between the public sector and the DNO, integrating network, planning and climate emergency activities, including procuring the flexibility to optimise network capacity.



Goal 3 – National low carbon power infrastructure

Suffolk has a leading role in supporting UK electricity grid decarbonisation thanks to its geographic and natural renewable energy potential. Championing this, through developing and publishing a Suffolk 'All Energy Vision', will contribute indirectly by supporting progress at a UK level. Public sector partners will also ensure that this energy is of local benefit, through our energy networks and local supply chains. This means investing in low carbon infrastructure and skills and turning support away from new fossil fuel infrastructure.



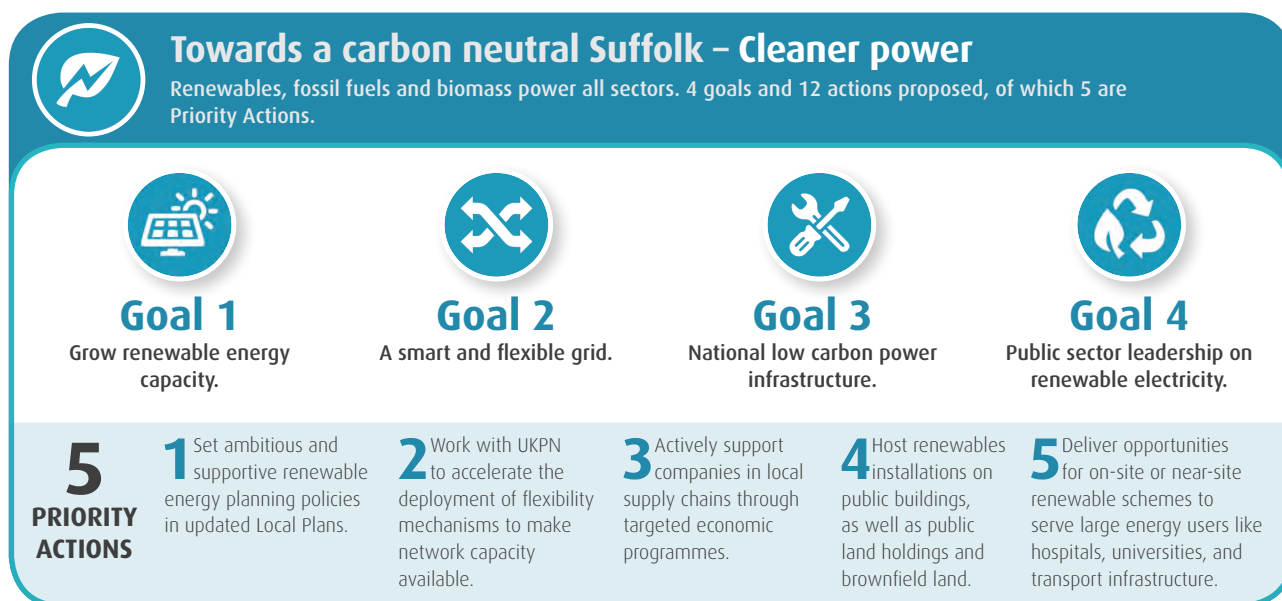
Goal 4 – Public sector leadership on renewable electricity

Public sector partners will help lead and build the market for low carbon energy generation. The public sector will look for opportunities to purchase electricity from local and community owned renewables projects through long term agreements and collaboration with community energy groups to co-develop these schemes where possible.

Priority actions

- 1** Set ambitious and supportive renewable energy planning policies in updated Local Plans by having planners take an evidence-led approach to identifying areas where large-scale installations are most likely to be acceptable.
- 2** Work with UKPN to accelerate the deployment of flexibility mechanisms to make network capacity available for new connections.
- 3** Actively support companies in local supply chains through targeted economic programmes, targeting support and investment in skills at low carbon infrastructure sectors such as offshore wind and nuclear power, and secure a local supply of these larger generation plants (for example, through Power Purchase Agreements).
- 4** Host renewables installations on public buildings, as well as public land holdings and brownfield land. Establish a collaborative relationship and work with community energy groups to co-develop the schemes where possible.
- 5** Deliver opportunities for on-site or near-site renewable schemes to serve large energy users, like hospitals, universities and transport infrastructure. Work with community energy groups where possible.

Figure 8: Cleaner power – Goals and priority actions



Tracking progress

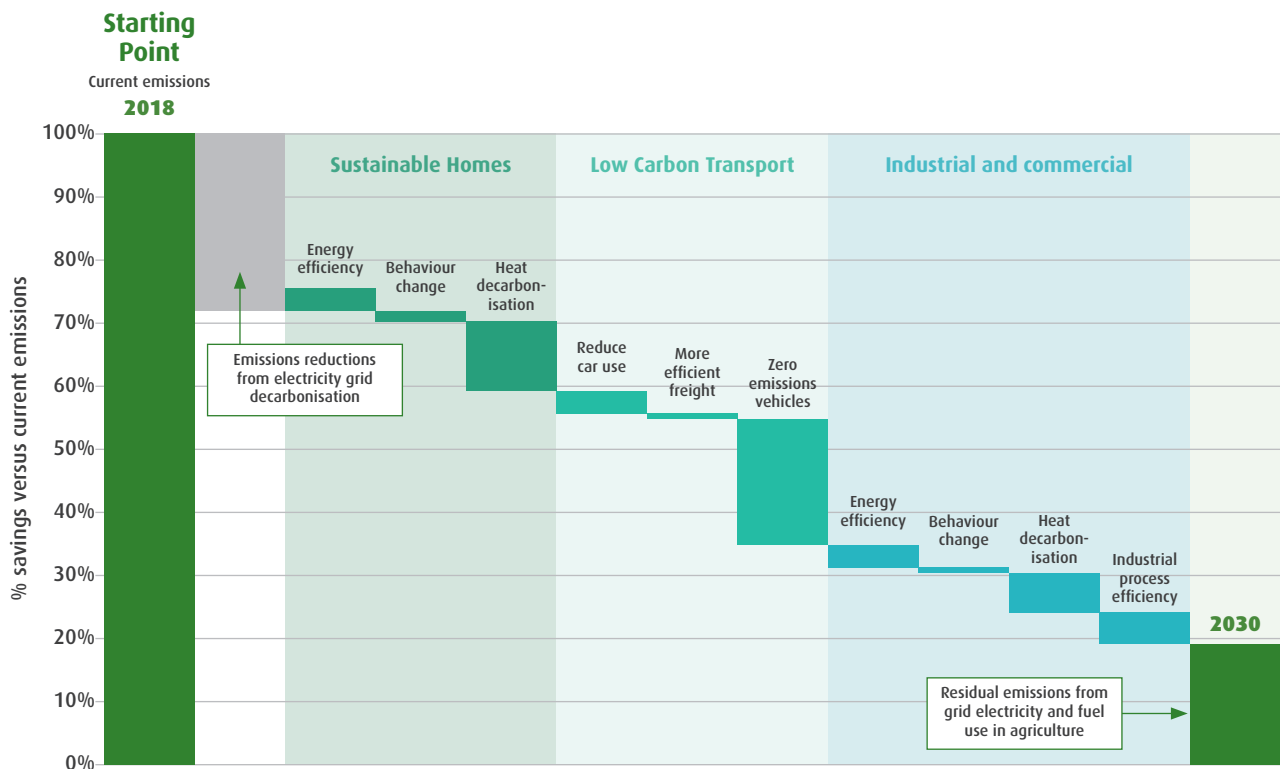
The key indicators to track progress in decarbonising electricity include: the total installed capacity (MW) of renewable energy; the capacity (MW) hosted on or directly serving the public sector; community energy capacity (MW); operating battery capacity (MW); and local flexibility procured by the DNO (MW/year).

Cumulative carbon emissions reduction potential

The chart below shows the overall reduction in carbon emissions that could be achieved via implementation of all the goals outlined above, relative to 2018 emissions. It shows, firstly, that a decrease of circa. 24% can be achieved through electricity grid decarbonisation, without any other interventions. Then, it shows the relative impacts from goals in domestic buildings (c. 16%), transport (c. 25%) and the industrial and commercial sectors (c. 16%).

Taken individually, the impacts of energy efficiency and behavioural change appear smaller than the impacts of heat decarbonisation or uptake of zero emission vehicles. However, it is important to understand that these are prerequisites for successfully switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

By 2030, the chart shows an overall reduction of roughly 81%. Most of the residual emissions would be associated with grid electricity which is not expected to be fully decarbonised by 2030. This emphasises the importance of maximising demand reduction measures and promoting local renewable energy uptake, to mitigate against this risk and ensure that Suffolk reaches its target.



Conclusion

The wider benefits of pursuing net zero

Delivering a carbon neutral Suffolk is a huge challenge and a journey that we need all residents, communities and organisations in Suffolk to join us on. We know that we cannot delay.

Our plan articulates working towards carbon neutrality by 2030, which is earlier than the national Government's target and demonstrates our level of ambition.

We have put transparency at the heart of our plan, including estimated assessments of the carbon emissions reduction potential of our goals, where possible. These goals get us most of the way there, but not all the way. To fully transition, we will need the support and engagement from the people of Suffolk, as well as action and support from national Government.

Transitioning to a carbon neutral Suffolk can bring with it a wide range of consequential benefits. Better air quality and more active travel can lead to physical health improvements, and an increasingly engaged and collaborative community can benefit from improvements in mental health. Putting Suffolk at the forefront of the transition to carbon neutrality prepares the county's residents, communities and organisations to seize future opportunities.

Financing the plan

Delivering carbon neutrality will involve significant investment. Financing the delivery of a carbon neutral Suffolk will require substantial changes to funding, as well as investment by the Government. As outlined by the [Climate Change Committee](#), local authorities have faced considerable funding cuts to budgets over recent years, which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government is likely to be the source of most grant finance available to local authorities post EU exit, for which a number have been identified. Alongside grant finance, debt finance can be secured by local authorities and partnerships from different providers and in different ways.





Alongside the important task of accessing available Government funds for climate action, this plan proposes two additional measures to support delivery.

- Community Climate Finance, where local authorities support community finance initiatives, for example with community municipal bonds.
- A fund created by a council-backed carbon offsetting scheme to finance carbon reduction activity.

Our ask of national Government

Suffolk cannot deliver carbon neutrality by itself. We will work collaboratively with national Government as the UK's policy landscape for net zero is developed. Our 'ask' will evolve over time as we progress on our journey towards carbon neutrality, but is clear now Government will need to:

- 1 Invest and incentivise**, particularly to support innovation, but also to support individual homeowners and businesses;
- 2 Regulate to drive through carbon reduction** and where needed, deploy regulatory freedoms and flexibilities to support innovation;
- 3 Develop a coherent policy approach** across all government departments, ensuring the impacts of the low carbon transition are fair and equitable across society;
- 4 Support and deliver communications, education and engagement** to raise awareness on the climate emergency and incentivise the necessary behaviour changes;
- 5 Maximise the opportunities of Global Britain, COP26** and the Environment Bill to encourage private sector innovation and investment in delivering net zero and demonstrate the UK's international leadership in tackling climate change.

Our ask of Suffolk

Our ask of residents, communities and organisations in Suffolk is simple: be open to starting the journey in however small or decisive a way is possible for you right now.

- We urge you to **understand your own GHG emissions**, and how they can be changed. A tool is available for individuals at greensuffolk.org where help for businesses and communities is also signposted.
- Think about **sharing your journey** with others. For example, by talking about the measures you are taking, sharing support for neighbours perhaps trying to do a similar thing.
- **Don't leave it to others.**
- And if you want to take action and cannot find your way forward, **put that out there so others can help.**



About this document:

In 2019, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders commissioned international consultants **Ricardo Energy and Environment** to produce a robust evidence base for GHG emissions in Suffolk and a **technical report** for how to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The evidence was introduced and tested in collaborative workshops whose feedback was used to produce the Evidence Report. This substantial document has been summarised into this Climate Emergency Plan and a Table of Actions document, complete with a short and long list of actions.

Document hierarchy

This Climate Emergency Plan is supported by a technical report and previous Evidence Report and a Table of Actions.

Where to find out more

greensuffolk.org

[Suffolk Public Sector Leaders](#)

Accessibility:

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