CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

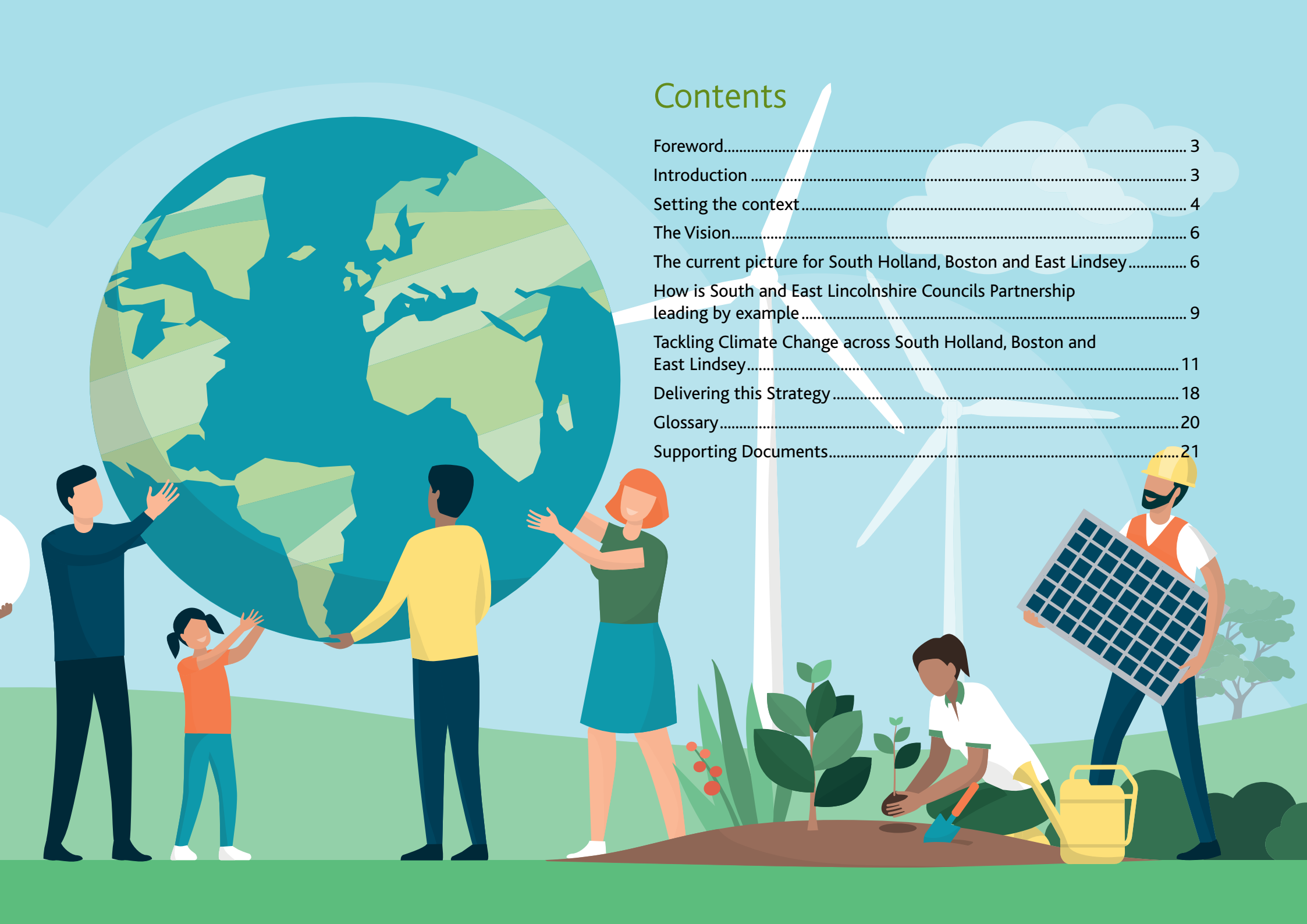
DRAFT

South Holland District Council

Boston Borough Council

East Lindsey District Council

served by One Team



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Foreword

Introduction

Climate Change is widely considered to be one of, if not the greatest, challenge facing our society.

Its impact is already being felt, most noticeably through the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events such as exceptional rainfall and rising temperatures. Responding to the challenges and finding ways to slow down further changes are tasks which will take time and require input at all scales from local through to international, from individual actions to policy changes at the highest levels.

Local authorities are well placed to drive forward and influence the action required. Through the services we deliver, the strategic and regulatory functions we provide and through our position as community leaders we can help to educate, guide and implement some of the changes we must make as a society to play our part but we will need to work together to achieve what is required.

Many of the possible approaches have multiple benefits in not only building resilience and driving down emissions, but also in helping to deliver positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities. It is imperative that we re-frame the issue of Climate Change to one which demonstrates how taking action can improve quality of life for everyone.

The purpose of this Climate Change Strategy is to provide direction around how to achieve a more sustainable future across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey as we all work towards a shared net zero target. That must ensure an approach that balances economic, social and environmental considerations equally. It is heavily focused on mitigation - *actions to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions* - but some degree of Climate Change is still inevitable and adaptation will also have an important role to play.

Setting the Context

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines Climate Change as, *"A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."*

They key cause of human contribution to Climate Change is through the increased production of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs). GHGs such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide occur naturally in the Earth's atmosphere, trapping heat and energy from the sun in a process known as the 'greenhouse effect'. Increases to GHG emissions push up levels of heat and energy in the Earth's atmosphere, causing a rise in global temperatures.

To give an indication of how things have changed, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are greater than they have been at any point in the last 800,000 years. The last time the Earth saw similar levels was around 4-million years ago when the average temperature was 2-4°C warmer than today, and the sea level was 10-25m higher[1].

[1] *Siegert, M., Haywood, A. Lunt, D., van de Flierdt, T., Francis, J. (2020) What ancient climates tell us about high carbon dioxide concentrations in Earth's atmosphere, Grantham Institute Briefing Note 13, Imperial College London. https://doi.org/10.25561/79292.*

International Context

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on Climate Change adopted by 196 parties, including the UK Government, at COP 21 in December 2015. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below a 2°C increase, preferably to a 1.5°C increase, compared to pre-industrial levels.

In response to that decision, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a special report in 2018 on the impact a 1.5°C rise in global temperatures would have on our planet and the critical steps that needed to be taken to try and keep rises below that level.

Action by the UK Government

The 2008 Climate Change Act set out a legal framework for the UK to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. It represented the first global, legally-binding Climate Change mitigation target to be made by a country.

The Act also established the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), an independent body which provides evidence-based advice to Government. In 2019, the CCC published its own report, supporting the findings of the IPCC and advising the UK Government to revise its long term 2050 carbon emissions. This saw a new target adopted to cut GHG emissions to net zero by 2050 with the UK Government becoming the first country to nationally declare a Climate Emergency in May 2019.

As the UK prepared to host the COP26 climate summit in 2021, the UK's sixth carbon budget set out the world's most ambitious Climate Change target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels, with the budget also incorporating the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions for the first time.

The Local Picture

It is important to try and translate all that is happening at a national and global scale into meaningful action at a local level.

In Lincolnshire, while all local authorities are moving at different paces, there is a shared common goal to not only achieve net zero but to achieve a more sustainable way of living that protects and improves our communities. Those involved with Climate Change across the county are working closely together to ensure we are sharing knowledge and learning from each other. Lincolnshire County Council launched its Green Masterplan in 2020 to set out the guiding principles of how we can collectively meet the challenges and opportunities Climate Change presents. These are:

- Don't waste anything - working toward a circular economy
- Consider wider opportunities - working in partnership to share funding, experience and networks and prevent duplication of effort.
- Take responsibility and pride - to cherish, protect and improve the county we have many reasons to be proud of

Net Zero defined

Many different terms are often associated with reducing emissions but it is important to understand the distinctions between them.

Achieving net zero emissions means to pursue an ambitious 1.5°C aligned science-based target for full value chain emissions i.e. Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Where any residual emissions remain these can be offset with certified Greenhouse Gas removal mechanisms such as tree planting or carbon capture technology.

Scope	Emission Type	Definition	Examples
Scope 1	Direct Emissions	Emissions from sources directly owned or controlled by the reporting body	Natural gas, fleet
Scope 2	Indirect Emissions	Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy consumed by the reporting body	Electricity
Scope 3		Upstream and downstream emissions that occur in the value chain of the reporting body	Business travel and commuting, waste, water, procured goods and services

This contrasts with, for example, carbon neutral targets which may not account for all emissions Scopes and which allow emissions to be offset by high quality, certified carbon credits.

Carbon Management Hierarchy

The key priority in seeking to reduce emissions is that there should be a hierarchical approach to their management which seeks to eliminate them as far as possible, followed by carbon and energy reduction and then by substitution measures such as low-carbon alternatives like renewable energy. Compensation measures are then the final step once other options have been exhausted.

These principles are best outlined in the IEMA Greenhouse Gas Management Hierarchy (updated 2020):

ELIMINATE	• Influence business decisions / use to prevent GHG emissions across the lifecycle • Potential exists when organisations change, expand, rationalise or move business • Transition to new business model, alternative operation or new product/service
REDUCE	• Real and relative (per unit) reductions in carbon and energy • Efficiency in operations, processes, fleet and energy management • Optimise approaches (e.g. technology and digital as enablers)
SUBSTITUTE	• Adopt renewables/low carbon technologies (on site, transport, etc) • Reduce carbon (GHG) intensity of energy use and of energy purchased • Purchase inputs and services with lower embodied/ embedded emissions
COMPENSATE	• Compensate 'unavoidable' residual emissions (removals, offsets etc) • Investigate land management, value chain, asset sharing, carbon credits • Support climate action and developing carbon markets

The Vision

The areas covered by South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council achieve net zero emissions in advance of the UK Government. In doing so, action supports social, economic and environmental outcomes that help adapt and mitigate to climate change and build a more sustainable future for our local communities.

The current picture for South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey

Carbon dioxide (CO2) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for 80% of GHG emissions in the UK in 2019[2]. Data published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on an annual basis provides the latest estimates of end-user CO2 emissions for local authority areas in the UK.

[2] *UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2019*

South Holland

Emissions in South Holland reduced by 25.8% between 2005 and 2019. The three largest contributing sectors are transport, domestic properties and land use, land use change and forestry.

	kt CO2 (2019)	Detail
Transport	190.7	Emissions include freight and passenger transport, both for private and business purposes
Housing	140.5	Emissions from energy consumption in and around the home
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)	109.2	Emissions/removals of CO2 from changes in the carbon stock in forestland, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and harvested wood products, and of other greenhouse gases from drainage (excl. croplands and intensive grasslands) and rewetting of soils, nitrogen mineralisation associated with loss and gain of soil organic matter, and fires.
Industrial	91.1	Emissions from businesses defined as UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07) subsections 01-32, 35-39 & 42
Commercial	44.3	All other SIC07 subsections
Agriculture	20.1	Emissions of greenhouse gases from livestock, agricultural soils (excluding carbon stock changes which are included in the LULUCF sector) and agricultural machinery.
Public Sector	7.2	Emissions from the combustion of fuel in public sector buildings, e.g., hospitals and schools. SIC07 subsections 84-87.
TOTAL	603.1	

Boston

In Boston, emissions reduced by 35.29% between 2005 and 2019. Transport and domestic properties are again the main two contributors with emissions from industry also coming in the top three for emissions.

	kt CO2 (2019)	Detail
Transport	117.5	Emissions include freight and passenger transport, both for private and business purposes
Housing	94.9	Emissions from energy consumption in and around the home
Industrial	52.8	Emissions from businesses defined as UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07) subsections 01-32, 35-39 & 42
Commercial	21.9	All other SIC07 subsections
Agriculture	9.5	Emissions of greenhouse gases from livestock, agricultural soils (excluding carbon stock changes which are included in the LULUCF sector) and agricultural machinery.
Public Sector	8.7	Emissions from the combustion of fuel in public sector buildings, e.g., hospitals and schools. SIC07 subsections 84-87.
LULUCF	8.3	Emissions/removals of CO2 from changes in the carbon stock in forestland, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and harvested wood products, and of other greenhouse gases from drainage (excl. croplands and intensive grasslands) and rewetting of soils, nitrogen mineralisation associated with loss and gain of soil organic matter, and fires.
TOTAL	313.7	

East Lindsey

Emissions in East Lindsey reduced by 27.31% between 2005 and 2019. The three largest contributing sectors are transport, domestic properties and land use, land use change and forestry.

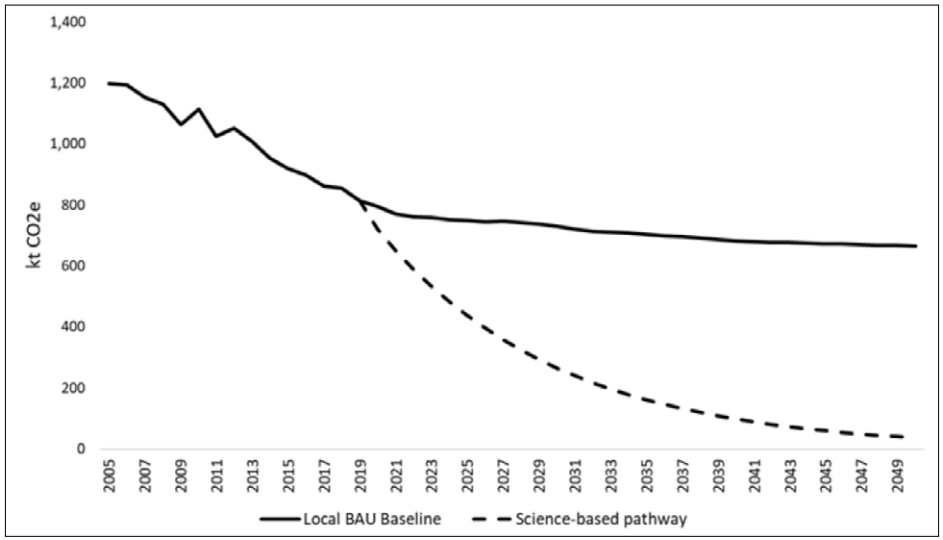
	kt CO2 (2019)	Detail
Transport	274.2	Emissions include freight and passenger transport, both for private and business purposes.
Housing	224.9	Emissions from energy consumption in and around the home
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)	174.0	Emissions/removals of CO2 from changes in the carbon stock in forestland, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and harvested wood products, and of other greenhouse gases from drainage (excl. croplands and intensive grasslands) and rewetting of soils, nitrogen mineralisation associated with loss and gain of soil organic matter, and fires.
Industrial	90	Emissions from businesses defined as UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07) subsections 01-32, 35-39 & 42.
Commercial	66.2	All other SIC07 subsections.
Agriculture	49.9	Emissions of greenhouse gases from livestock, agricultural soils (excluding carbon stock changes which are included in the LULUCF sector) and agricultural machinery.
Public Sector	15.1	Emissions from the combustion of fuel in public sector buildings, e.g., hospitals and schools. SIC07 subsections 84-87.
TOTAL	894.2	

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has argued that from 2020, keeping within a global carbon budget of 344 billion tonnes of GHG emissions would give us a 66% chance of limiting average warming to 1.5 degrees and therefore avoiding dangerous levels of climate change.

If we divide this global figure up on an equal basis by population, this gives East Lindsey a total carbon budget of 6 megatonnes (i.e. 6 million tonnes) from 2020[3].

Based only on the fuel and electricity used within its boundaries, East Lindsey currently emits c.0.8 million tonnes of carbon a year, meaning that it would use up its carbon budget in just over 7.5 years.

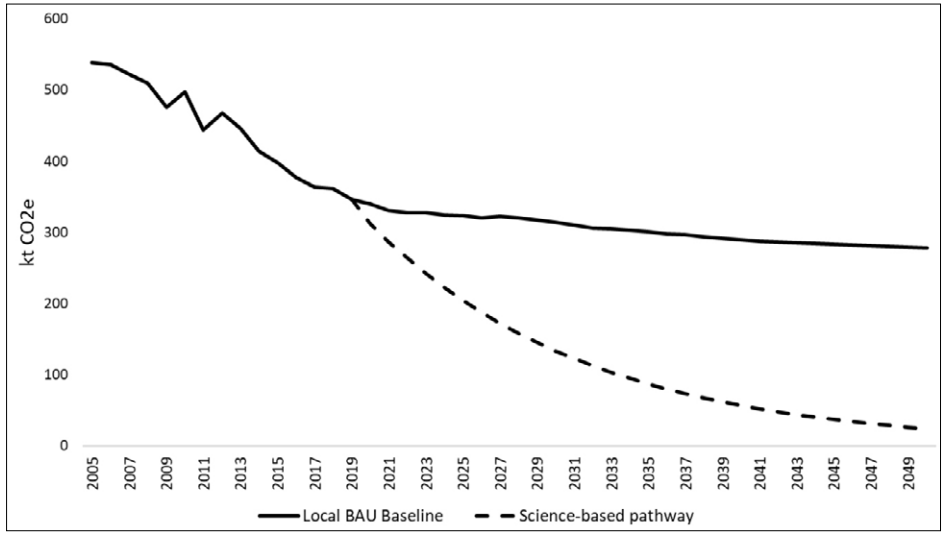
With on-going decarbonisation of electricity, and taking into account population and economic growth, it is projected that East Lindsey's 2005 level of emissions will have fallen by 44% by 2050. If however it is to stay within its carbon budget, East Lindsey needs to reduce its emissions by 9.5% year on year.



Business As Usual and Science-based pathway for East Lindsey.

[3] *Gouldson, A. Sudmant, A. Duncan, A. (2019). "A summary carbon roadmap for Boston". Place based Climate Action Network, https://pcancities.org.uk/*

Similarly, Boston has a budget of 3 megatonnes (i.e. 3 million tonnes) which at current rates would be exhausted in 9 years. However, Boston could stay within its carbon budget by reducing its emissions by 8.2% year on year.



Business As Usual and Science-based pathway for Boston.

The carbon budget for South Holland is currently being calculated.

How is South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership leading by example?

Focus 1: Reduce the carbon footprint of our own activities

Both East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) and Boston Borough Council (BBC) have engaged the Carbon Trust to produce Carbon Reduction Plans for their own operations. The ELDC plan was adopted in November 2019 and the BBC plan is due to be finalised in Autumn 2021.

Both Councils have adopted net zero commitments in advance of the UK Government with ELDC specifying a target to reduce emissions from its own operations by 45% by 2027 and to net zero by 2040. Action Plans setting out the projects and initiatives required to deliver the reductions needed are being implemented to ensure progress remains on track.

Adapting and mitigating to climate change requires an holistic approach to sustainability in addition to emissions reductions. Both Councils have agreed priorities within their Corporate Strategies in relation to tackling climate change. New Environment Policies have also been adopted to set out the framework for how they will work to protect the natural environment for residents and visitors.

South Holland District Council joined with Boston and East Lindsey to form the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) in September 2021. This provides an opportunity to understand existing actions the Council has

taken which contribute to the agenda whilst also working closely with Boston and East Lindsey to identify opportunities to align policy and processes where appropriate.

Leading by example is key and through both existing service provision and new developments and initiatives we will ensure implications for our carbon footprints are fully considered from the outset.

Focus 2: Support and facilitate partnership working of stakeholders throughout South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey to take action to achieve net zero emissions across the area

All three Councils have a key role to play in both leading by example and supporting the wider community to deliver this climate change strategy. While their sphere of influence is limited, they are well placed to drive and influence change through the services they deliver, as trusted community leaders and through their regulatory and strategic functions. Key activities will include:

- Support the vulnerable and fuel-poor households with energy efficiency measures
- Local Plans that supports sustainable development and climate change adaptation/mitigation
- Guidance for businesses on adaptation to climate change
- Work with businesses to understand and reduce their carbon footprints
- Support town and parish councils to take action at a local level
- Identify strategic sites for biodiversity net gain and carbon offsetting initiatives
- Strengthen and enhance existing ecological networks to build resilience to climate change
- Ensure spatial planning plays a key role in the transition to a low-carbon society

Focus 3: Climate Change Adaptation

Adaptation: Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

- Undertake a comprehensive risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate within the SELCP area
- Develop an adaptation plan that details the SELCP's response to the evidence of our changing climate
- Review procurement procedures to embed adaptation and mitigation approaches into key contracts and services
- Ensure effective partnership working to address climate change risks across administrative boundaries

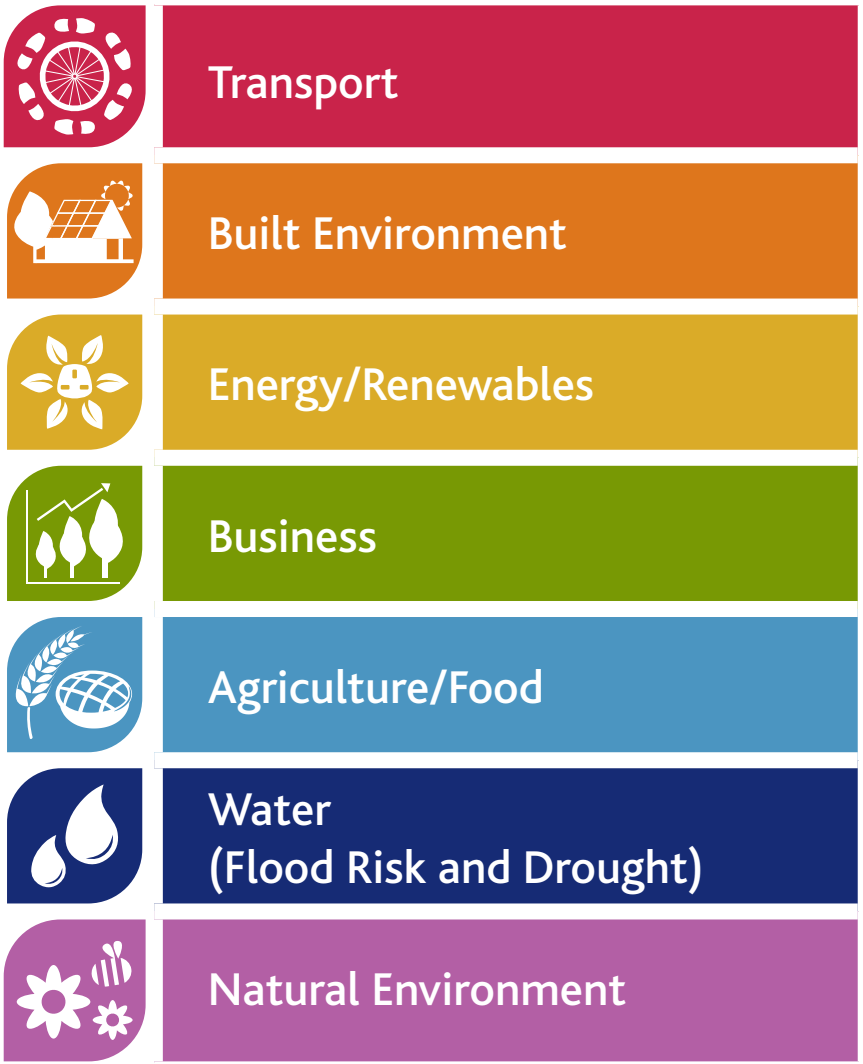
Tackling Climate Change across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey

The scope of emissions that is in the direct control or influence of the three councils is relatively small. This strategy seeks to provide an overarching framework to reduce emissions as a whole across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey.

A number of strategic themes have been identified as central to the road to net zero, but achieving the necessary outcomes will need cross sector input from a wide range of stakeholders working towards a common goal.

Many of the themes will also involve a number of cross-cutting elements and taking forward action will require an holistic view of the interdependencies and multiple benefits that are at play.

Key themes



Transport

Emissions from the transport sector are the largest contributors to the carbon footprints of the SELCP area accounting for 37% of Boston's total emissions, 32% of South Holland's and 31% of East Lindsey's. Emissions attributable to transport across all three areas are rising as a proportion of all emissions.

Reducing emissions and the promotion of more sustainable travel solutions are included to some extent in existing travel plans and strategies in the county with a new Lincolnshire Transport Plan due to be adopted in early 2022. A Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Strategy is currently in progress and set to be agreed in 2021.

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) currently exists at Haven Bridge and Boston Borough Council coordinates an Action Plan which includes steps that will achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Challenges/Opportunities

Development of the Port of Boston as a fresh fruit and vegetables hub is already starting to tackle the need for lower carbon supply chains. Furthermore, Town Deals for both Boston and Skegness include plans to enhance their respective railway stations along with the growth of walking and cycling options.

A large number of businesses, particularly in the agri-food supply chain across Boston and South Holland, rely on the road network to support their operations to ensure timely delivery and dispatch of produce.

The rural nature of the area means limited public transport networks will make decarbonising transport a challenging task in the years ahead with residents often having to travel several kilometres to access key services such as doctors and supermarkets. While electric vehicles provide one option, as technology advances it is likely there will be a mixture of solutions adopted.

Strategic actions

- Prioritise the development of an EV policy/strategy for ensuring correct positioning of charging infrastructure across the area based on modelling current and predicted future requirements
- Maximise the potential of public transport links together with walking and cycling options and explore opportunities to decarbonise public transport through new and emerging technology.
- Promote both the continuation and expansion of new ways of working developed during the Covid-19 pandemic, to reduce the need for regular commuting and unnecessary travel

Built Environment

Emissions from energy consumption in and around domestic properties is the second largest contributor to carbon emissions across the area. Without action emissions in this sector are predicted to increase by 2050 by as much 8% across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey.

The challenges in this sector going forward are two-fold: both ensuring that new builds and retrofits of existing properties are fit for the future but also ensuring that developments continue to be considered economically viable once new technologies are incorporated.

The communities of South and East Lincolnshire are rural in nature with high proportions of off-gas grid properties still reliant on solid-fuel systems. A range of initiatives will be required to educate and find solutions to alternative methods of heating residents' homes.

Challenges/Opportunities

Currently all new developments must meet the energy efficiency standards required by UK Building Regulations. The Government is consulting on updated standards for new homes which are expected to include a ban on gas boilers from 2025 amongst other measures.

Engagement with developers will be key to finding solutions which will enable the development of affordable, energy efficient homes.

There is also an increasing understanding of the need to reduce embodied carbon in new build and retrofit schemes and this is likely to gain further traction in the next few years.

Strategic actions

- Embed climate change mitigation and adaptation within strategic planning policies
- Encourage and promote efficient use of energy in the home
- Foster exemplar approaches to sustainable design and adaptive technologies
- Support residents to access available funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty
- Encourage a better understanding of current embodied carbon levels within new developments and work with the industry to identify low carbon alternatives and where offsetting options may need to be developed

Energy/Renewables

Taken as a whole across the different sectors, energy consumption is the largest source of emissions across the area. Whether through the heating of private or public sector property or through energy usage as part of industrial and commercial processes, there will need to be significant changes to the way energy is both produced and consumed.

In terms of energy demand, South Holland, East Lindsey and Boston all perform poorly on fuel poverty with all three having a higher percentage of households in fuel poverty than the national average.

A key challenge for the whole area is in terms of network capacity which at times are currently presenting a barrier to renewable generation and storage. Engagement with the Distribution Network Operators will be essential as will the ability to project accurately potential expansion and take up of particular technologies to ensure the energy infrastructure is able to meet demand.

Challenges/Opportunities

Nationally, renewable energy generation continues to grow with 42% of electricity produced in 2020 from wind, solar, water and wood compared with 41% generated from gas and coal plants. If this growth on the path to net zero is to continue however, small scale renewables solutions together with larger scale developments are going to be essential to achieving the net zero aspirations.

Strategic actions

- Prioritise the development of appropriate Local Area Energy Plan(s)
- To increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable sources across the SELCP area
- Encourage and promote viable decentralised energy opportunities and renewables options where appropriate
- Achieve a future-proofed energy distribution network without constraints which supports new connections and storage initiatives
- Support businesses and householders to install renewable energy systems

Business

Emissions from industrial and commercial activities combined make up another significant proportion of the carbon footprint of the SELCP area.

The employment share by sector can be broken down as shown below, with key areas including public admin, education and health; wholesale and retail; business, financial and professional services and manufacturing. The main difference is the significant proportion of accommodation and food services employment in East Lindsey.

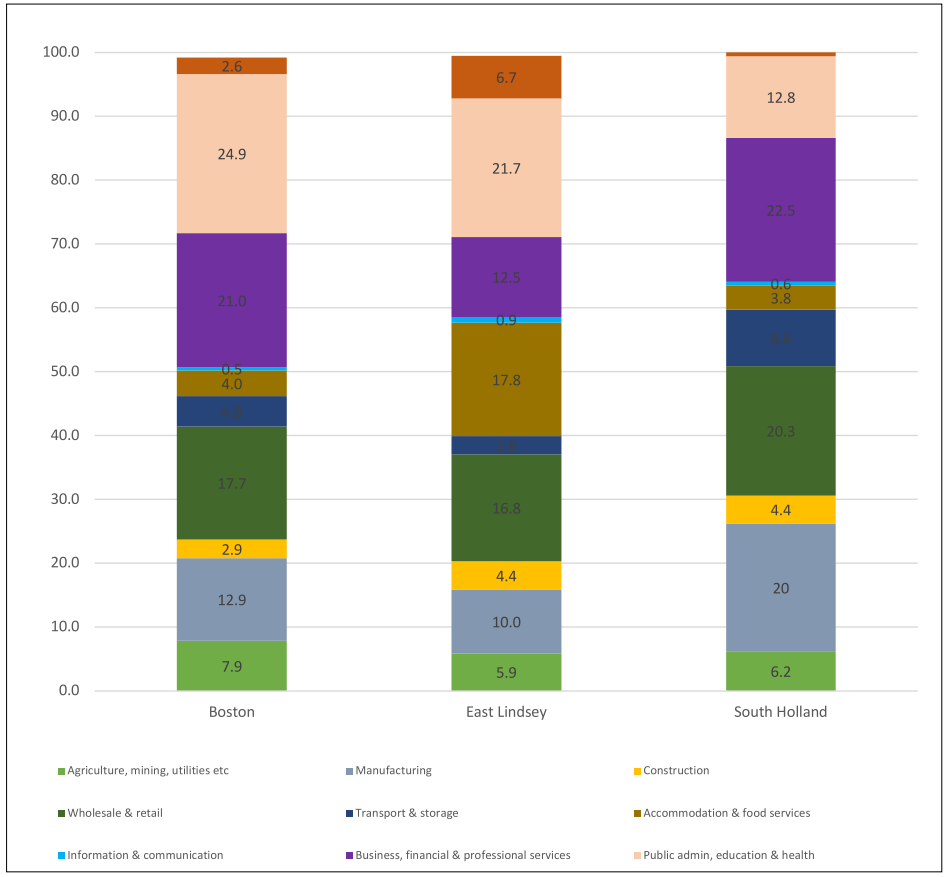
Challenges/Opportunities

Since the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, many businesses have adopted new ways of working in particular with many employees working from home and reducing business travel. Harnessing those gains needs to be continued to ensure a green recovery.

Consumers have a large power of influence and businesses are set to see increasing pressure to meet the challenges and opportunities of moving towards circular economy - reducing waste and protecting natural resources.

Strategic actions

- Encourage sustainable procurement practices that support local supply chains and fosters the building of a circular economy
- Support and advise local businesses on understanding their current carbon footprint and identifying routes to decarbonise their operations
- Promote and foster opportunities for businesses to grow and develop within the low carbon and renewables sector
- Introduce Carbon Charter Award scheme for businesses to showcase their climate change credentials



Agriculture/Food

Agriculture is one of the dominant industries across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership area. The Agri-Food industry as a whole plays a major role in the region's economy and the development of a South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone at Holbeach aims to promote innovation within the sector including areas such as low carbon technology.

The sector has a relatively unique position in being able to influence both emissions and sequestration of GHGs. Unlike most other sectors however, only around 10% of emissions are carbon dioxide with nitrous dioxide and methane making up the majority. These can be more complex to address because of the involvement of natural processes.

Arable cropping and salad/vegetables are the primary production types across the area but there are also a number of livestock operations.

		Farmed area by type (hectares)				
	No. of holdings	Farmed area	Cereals	Arable (exc cereals)	Fruit and Veg	Grassland
Boston	277	31,894	10,969	8,274	7,149	3,368
East Lindsey	1,131	145,462	70,540	36,576	6,237	21,097
South Holland	608	64,062	30,050	18,806	7,126	3,395

Challenges/Opportunities

Agriculture is not only well placed to lead on changes to reduce emissions. Farmers are also the custodians of our natural environment and have an important role to play in nature's recovery with innovative solutions offering the opportunity to deliver multiple benefits to society.

There will be challenges ahead as the impact of our diets on climate change continues to undergo scrutiny and a new Agriculture Bill seeks to deliver significant changes to the way farm support is delivered.

Strategic actions

- Promote and support innovation in the farming sector to enable more sustainable farming practices
- Educate and encourage residents to access affordable, local and seasonal food through promoting local supply chains and food markets
- Identify opportunities and support farmers to access mechanisms to enable less productive land to be used for environmental schemes which also deliver multiple benefits to society

Water (Flood Risk and Drought)

Water is a key theme because it covers not only consumption and resource management but also flood risk from coastal inundation, rivers and surface water.

The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership area is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts because of a relatively low rainfall and its low-lying nature with a long coastline.

In East Lindsey alone, 38% of the District is at risk from coastal inundation alone, with additional risk over coming from surface water flooding i.e. from rivers, drains and localised flooding.

Across the area, the considerable risk of flooding is substantially reduced by the work of internal drainage boards in partnership with other bodies such as the Environment Agency.

Challenges/Opportunities

Climate change is expected to lead to warmer and drier summers together with milder and wetter winters and the ability to manage water to ensure supply is available where and when it is needed is essential.

Given the area's coastal geography, sea level rise undoubtedly presents one of the biggest challenges for the future and partnership working will be vital to ensuring effective adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Strategic actions

- Promote technologies and behaviours that reduce water consumption across all domestic and commercial sectors
- Work with developers to reduce water consumption demand in new builds and conversions
- Support initiatives to improve the management of waterways and coastal areas to reduce flood risk and benefit the natural environment
- Ensure strategic partnership working delivers long-term coastal change management and planning, as well as building resilience to communities at risk of coastal and riverine flooding through adaptation and mitigation with clear lines of communication between all parties

Natural Environment

Climate change will add to the increasing pressures on our natural environment but if managed correctly, the natural environment can also play a key role in how we mitigate for and adapt to the challenges it presents.

The SELCP area is fortunate to be home to Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with the internationally important estuaries of The Wash and The Humber on its doorstep. It has a total of 74 designated sites of national/international importance.

There are also 514 locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites in South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey although just 41% are considered as being 'positively' managed - the vast majority are in Boston and South Holland.

Challenges/Opportunities

Carbon sequestration, water storage, water quality, flood protection and urban cooling can all be delivered through a well-managed natural environment together with a range of societal benefits such as green tourism and improved health and wellbeing.

A new Environment Bill looks set to give local authorities an important role to play in nature's recovery not only through putting spatial planning for nature on a statutory footing but also in working in partnership to ensure a Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivers action which enables both nature and people to thrive.

Strategic actions

- Encourage and promote land use change and management decisions that help both nature and people mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Work in partnership to ensure gains for the natural environment are delivered in a strategic manner with long-term plans to ensure effective management is maintained
- Where tree planting is part of the solution, ensure a 'right tree in the right place' approach is taken
- Promote and understanding of the economic benefits that a well-managed natural environment can bring to the SELCP area

Delivering this Strategy

The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is well placed to facilitate the delivery of this strategy but this can only be achieved with the full support of stakeholders from across the public and private sector together with local community engagement.

Meeting the net zero ambition of the UK as a whole will require action on every level but will only achieve the necessary results through education, through sharing knowledge and best practice and ultimately through working in partnership.

South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN)

The key delivery mechanism for taking forward this strategy will be through the establishment of the South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN). Facilitated by three Councils, SELCAN will bring together private, public and community sectors to jointly tackle climate change.

Its remit will be to drive strategic thinking and promote on the ground delivery and implementation of projects to reduce emissions across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey and build a more sustainable future.

Representation will be through a number of seats identified for each key sector, designed to provide a cross section across the area. SELCAN will meet quarterly but may choose to establish small working groups where issues are felt to be particularly sector or geographically specific.

SELCAN will be an independent body which owns, monitors and reviews progress against the strategy with secretariat provided by South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council.

Communications

This strategy has been produced by the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership but is a strategy for the whole area.

The success of its delivery is dependent on:

- The effectiveness of the leadership and the commitment within the public sector and private sector in working towards a net zero future
- Every individual, business and organisation in South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey being aware of the challenges ahead and having an understanding of the actions that can be taken
- Effective engagement with everyone making effective, lasting, cultural changes to play their part in a net zero future

To this end, communication will be key and the engagement plan sets out the outcomes that need to be achieved:

	How will this be achieved?	Timescale	How will it be monitored?
Ensure every individual, business and organisation is aware of the Climate Change Strategy and what it seeks to achieve	Media campaign, public consultation, engagement events, e-Messenger	Next 12 months	Engagement with consultation and events
People living and working in South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey understand climate change and its potential impacts on our area	Media campaigns, engagement events,	1-3 years	Climate change questions included in residents surveys. Responses can be compared
All sectors are actively participating in SELCAN and working to achieve a cultural change towards a sustainable future for Boston and East Lindsey	Direct approaches to key sector representatives, online presence, strong partnership working, SELCAN ambassadors	1-3 years	Monitored by numbers of stakeholders pro-actively participating in SELCAN with representation across the identified sectors
Individuals, businesses and organisations understand where they can make a difference and are seeking to play their part	Workshops, business networks, toolkits for key sectors	1-3 years	Feedback from events and workshops Number of enquiries received
South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey are recognised as exemplars in how everyone is working together to achieve the net zero ambitions of the nation	Carbon Charter Awards, media campaigns on success stories, BEIS statistics	3-5 years	Engagement with Awards, publicity achieved, reductions in annual BEIS figures for Boston and East Lindsey

Glossary

Biodiversity net gain - an approach to development and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

Carbon budget - the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions that can be emitted in total over a specified time by a given entity in line with scientific targets to keep within certain temperature increase

Carbon credits - a term used to describe a tradeable certificate or permit giving the holder a right to emit a measured amount of greenhouse gas.

Carbon footprint - the total greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the activities of individual, event, organisation, service or product expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e).

Carbon offsetting - a mechanism used to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions made elsewhere through. Usually through a body funding activities or projects that improve or enhance the environment or buying carbon credits to balance out the emissions from their own operations.

Carbon neutral - a process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions which allows for offsetting through the purchase of high quality, certified carbon credits

Circular economy - an economic system aimed at eliminating waste by keeping resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them while in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of their life.

Carbon sequestration - the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide

Decentralised energy - projects which generate, use and store energy off the main grid including micro-renewables, heating and cooling networks

Ecological networks - the composition of core areas of habitats and corridors such as hedgerows or watercourses which enable the free movement of species throughout a landscape

Embodied carbon - the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated to produce a built asset.

Fuel poverty - a situation where a household has fuel costs that are above the national average and in spending that amount are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Greenhouse Gases - gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. The main greenhouse gases are Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Methane (CH4) and Nitrous Oxide (NO2) and are usually expressed in terms of their Carbon Dioxide equivalent value (CO2e)

Local Area Energy Plan - a data driven approach which brings together the decarbonisation of heat, transport and power by incorporating in interactions and impact on the energy network in a given spatial area

Local Nature Recovery Strategy - spatial strategies which establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits

Net zero - a process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions whereby any residual emissions that remain these can be offset with certified greenhouse gas removal mechanisms such as tree planting or carbon capture technology.

Residual emissions - any emissions which remain after all technically and economically feasible opportunities have been implemented

Science-based target - a carbon emissions target which is in line with the scale of reductions required to keep global temperature increases below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures.

Scope 1 emissions - direct emissions from sources directly owned or controlled by the reporting body such as fleet vehicles or natural gas consumption

Scope 2 emissions - indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy such as electricity

Scope 3 emissions - indirect emissions that occur in the value chain of an organisation, be that upstream or downstream, such as business travel, waste disposal or water consumption

Urban cooling - a range of methods used to lower temperatures in built-up area and reduce the impact of the urban heat island effect

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

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