



# EASTBOURNE

## Carbon Neutral 2030

**Eastbourne Borough Council**

- **Carbon Emissions Report**
- **Strategy Update**



**December 2022**

# Eastbourne Borough Council: Eastbourne Climate Emergency Strategy Update

December 2022

## Contents

1. Introduction	p.3
1.1 Evidence base update	
2. Eastbourne Borough Council Carbon Emissions Report	p.6
2.1 Methodology	
2.2 Data summary & review	
2.3 Scope 3 emissions	
3. Eastbourne Borough Carbon Emissions Summary	p.12
4. Airbourne Carbon Emissions Summary	p.13
5. Climate Emergency Strategy - Update on theme areas and case studies	p.16
6. Updated Action Plan 2022	p.28

## 1. Introduction

This update report on the progress of the Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy adopted in November 2020 provides an overview of how work has progressed on the initial action plan and how this work has evolved over the last year. It provides a brief update to the evidence base and reports on the projects that have been delivered by the council, the community and in partnership.

The council provides a summary emission report for the year 2021/22 along with a progress summary against the baseline year 2018/19.

The borough emissions are reported using publicly available data produced by Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). BEIS data is national and consistent over many years but only consists of scope 1 (direct emissions from fuel use) and 2 (electricity consumed) emissions within the local authority boundary, it is reported, for the first time, in units of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

No analysis is carried out on the borough data and it is provided for monitoring purposes only this year. A more in-depth analysis of borough emissions will be carried out in 2024/25. This should enable a review of the figures pre, during and post COVID-19 lockdowns.

For the first time the council has completed an estimate of the emissions attributed to the Airbourne event held 18-21 August 2022. This can be found on page 16

## 1.1 Evidence base update- Climate Risks

In June 2021, the UK's Climate Change Committee published the Adaptation Committee's Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk. The priority climate change risks are summarised briefly below and the summary for England can be found here:

<https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCRA-Evidence-Report-England-Summary-Final.pdf>

A useful animation to explain this report can be found at:

<https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/newsroom/animation-independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/>

Key notes from this assessment:

Adaptation action has failed to keep up with the worsening reality of climate risk

- The gap between the level of risk we face and the level of adaptation underway has widened.
- The UK has the capacity and resources to respond effectively but has not yet done so.
- Acting now will be cheaper than dealing with the consequences later.
- Eight risk areas require urgent attention
  - Risks to viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats & species
  - Risks to soil health from flooding and drought
  - Risks to natural carbon stores (such as soil and woodland)
  - Risks to crops, livestock & commercial trees
  - Risks to supply of food, goods and services due to collapse of supply chains & distribution networks
  - Risks related to failure of the power system
  - Risks to health from heat
  - Multiple risks to the UK from impacts occurring overseas

### **Mitigation**

The Climate Action Tracker (<https://climateactiontracker.org>) is a useful tool to track 39 governments' climate actions and measures against the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It quantifies and evaluates mitigation targets, policies and action.

The UK Government's evaluation is summarised as 'Almost Sufficient'. The net zero target by 2050 is evaluated to be acceptable though the current policies and action mean that **the UK is not on track to meet its target**. The UK's country summary can be found here:

<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/uk/>

## Adaptation

The main update this year to our national and global evidence base is that of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II report on the assessment of the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change. [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#).

Key notes from this report:

The extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger than estimated in previous assessments.

- Climate change has caused substantial damages, and increasingly irreversible losses.
- Hundreds of local losses of species have been driven by increases in the magnitude of heat extremes. Some losses are already irreversible.
- Climate change including increases in frequency and intensity of extremes, have reduced food and water security, hindering efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- There are increasing negative impacts on the health and well-being of our societies, increasing damage to infrastructure due to flooding and storms as well as increasing damage to key economic sectors across Europe.
- Overall negative impacts are outweighing positive gains as a result of the changing climate.
- Global warming, reaching 1.5°C in the near term (2021-2040), would cause unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans.
- Near-term actions that limit global warming to close to 1.5°C would substantially reduce projected losses and damages related to climate change in human systems and ecosystems but cannot eliminate them all.

## 2. Eastbourne Borough Council Carbon Emissions Report

This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial year 2021/22 along with a comparison against the baseline 2018/19.

### 2.1 Methodology

We have calculated the baseline using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol methodology and the appropriate annual conversion factors for each year issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). By using this method and these figures we are ensuring that the baseline emissions we measure can be reported accurately every year to 2030 using a peer reviewed and agreed process.

Eastbourne Borough Council generally uses the 'operational control' approach to define the organisational boundary and to inform the emissions inventory boundary described in the table below.

It should be noted however that with regards to metered gas and electricity, all sites, regardless of who operates the site, are considered to be in scope 1 or 2 if the council is responsible for paying the bills (even if these costs are re-charged to the leasee) AND for maintaining the premises. Where these conditions are not met the sites will sit within scope 3, for example, Towner Art Gallery.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions form the organisational baseline and are considered to be directly controllable by the council.

Category	Description	Data used in this analysis
Scope 1	Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by Eastbourne Borough Council	Metered gas data (for buildings where the Council pay the gas bills) Litres of fuel consumed for fleet vehicles and machinery
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased by Eastbourne Borough Council	Metered electricity data (for buildings where the Council pay the electricity bills)
Scope 3	Indirect emissions that result from other activities that occur in the value chain, either upstream or downstream	As per table 3

## 2.2 Data summary & review

April 2018 to March 2022

**From 2018/19 to 2021/22 the council's scope 1 & 2 emissions have reduced by 15% in total.**

Table 1 provides a breakdown of emissions by source.

This year we are reporting for the first time, emissions from: the Sovereign Centre- Gas, Electricity and Water; and the gas consumption of the Congress Theatre/Welcome building complex. Due to the scale of the emissions from these two buildings it has resulted in a re-calculation of each year reported to date including the base year. The information in table 1 has been updated as a result and cannot be compared to previous updates.

- There has been a 16% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and 15% decrease in electricity consumption.
- There has been a reduction in fuel use of just over 15%.
- Electricity emissions are reported using the standard grid electricity factor. The council continues to purchase a REGO backed green tariff supply.

Graph 1 visually describes the main sources of emissions each year.

The effect of the COVID-19 lockdowns is most obvious here as is the consumption increase as a result of returning to normal. An in-depth analysis of emission trends will occur in 2024/25 in order to allow emissions to stabilise and better reflect normal operations.

Gas remains the bulk of emissions and the most affected by the lockdown reduction as a result of reduced building use.

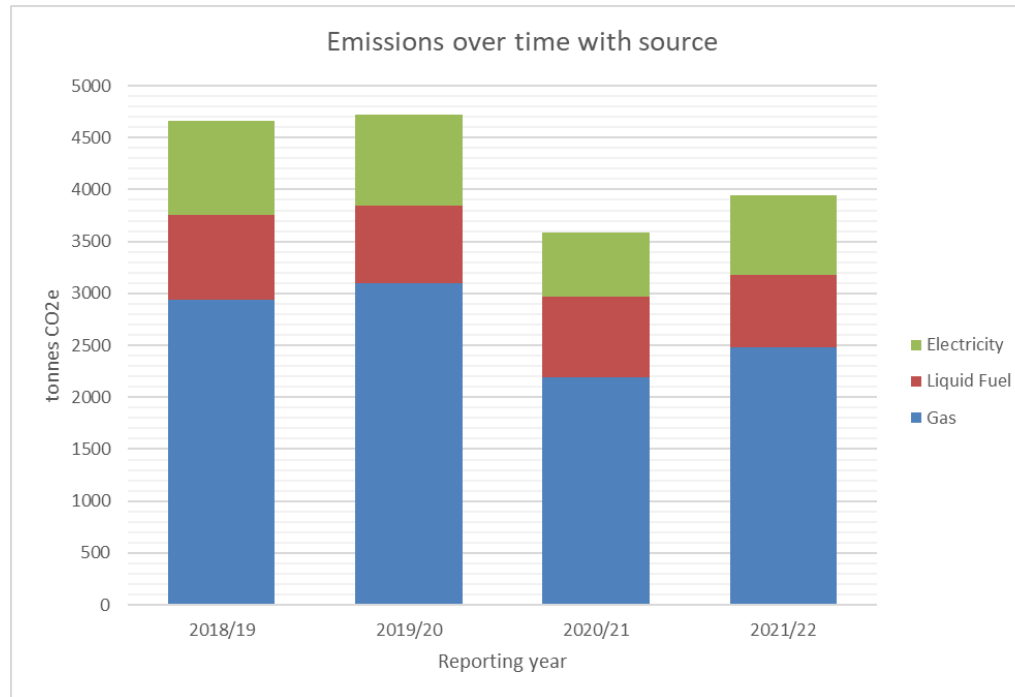
Graph 2 shows the same emission information by operational source.

As the bulk of emissions, gas consumption is further broken and represented by graph 3. Half of all gas consumption (and emissions) is attributed to the Sovereign Centre (30%) and the Congress Theatre/Welcome Building complex (20%). The Sovereign Centre has an on-site Combined Heat and Power unit which generates electricity. This results in a high gas consumption and relatively low electricity consumption.

**Table 1. Eastbourne Borough Council emissions table**

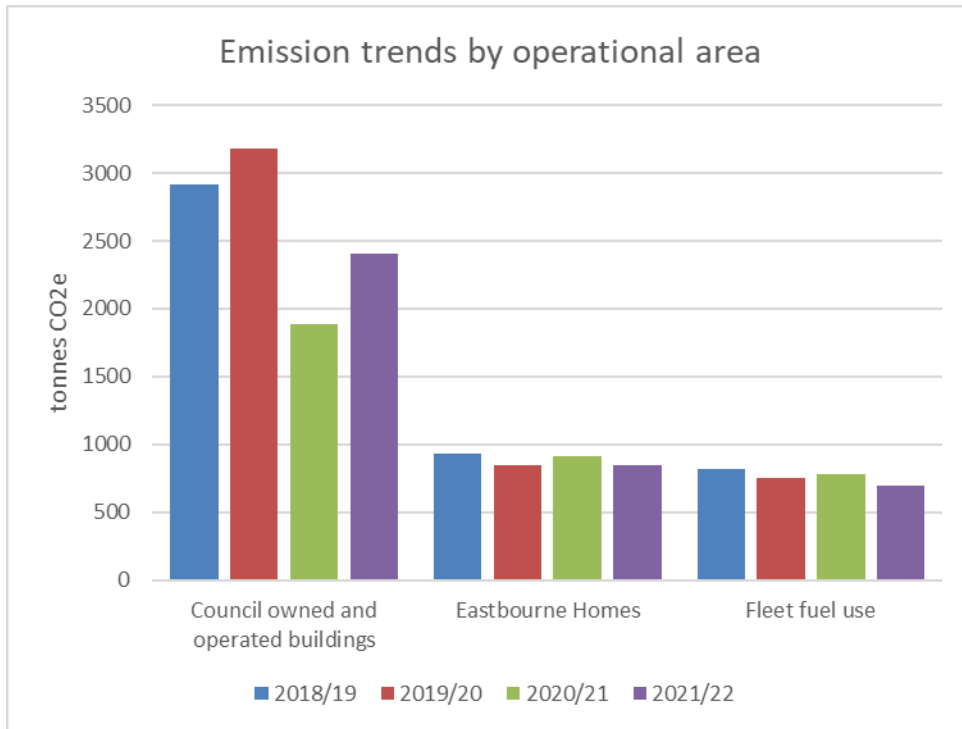
<i>Emissions source</i>	<i>Tonnes CO2e</i>			
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Gas</b>	2941	3094	2194	2484
<b>Liquid Fuel</b>	815	751.9	779	690.5
<b>Electricity</b>	902.5	880	613	772
<b>Total</b>	<b>4658.5</b>	<b>4725.9</b>	<b>3586.0</b>	<b>3946.5</b>

**Graph 1. Emissions over time**

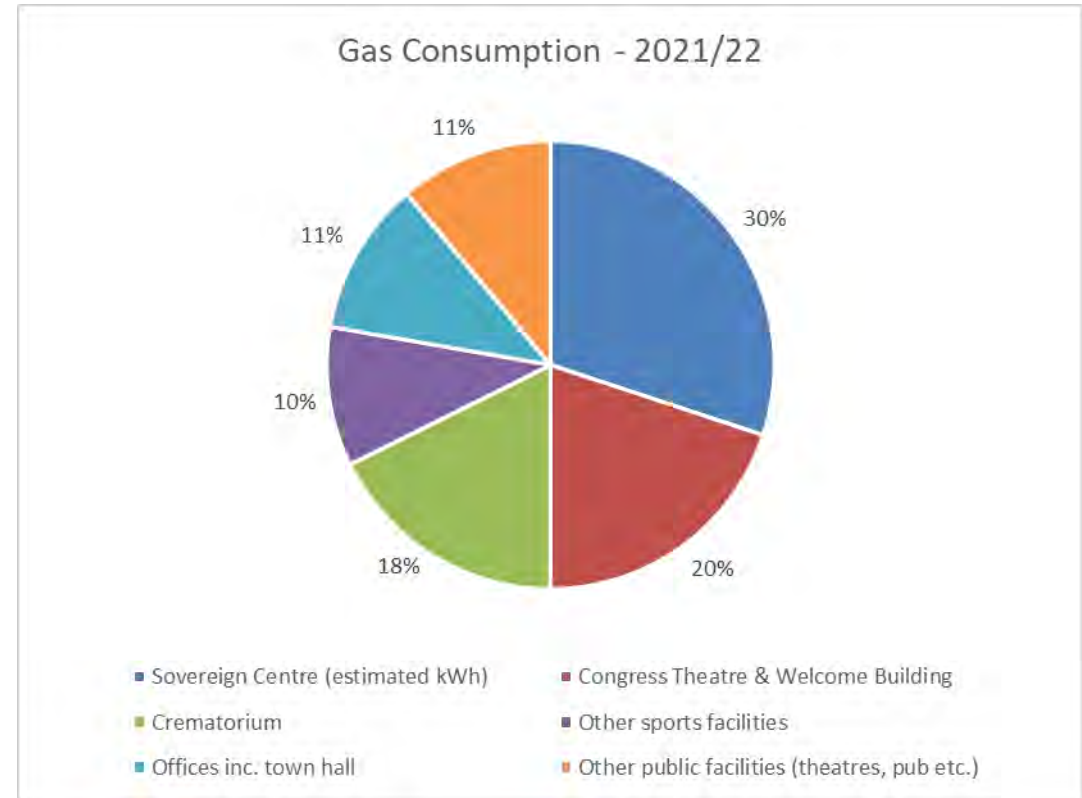




**Graph 2. Emission trends by operational area**



**Graph 3. Analysis of 2021/22 gas consumption**



**Table 2. Consumption vs emissions trends – current year against baseline**

	% change in consumption from baseline year	% change in emissions from baseline year
<b>Gas</b>	15% decrease	16% decrease
<b>Liquid Fuels</b>	12% decrease	15% decrease
<b>Electricity</b>	11% increase	15% decrease

## 2.3 Scope 3 emissions

The council continues to expand upon its Scope 3 emissions reporting.

The council acknowledges that our greatest source of emissions will be from our purchasing and contracting and continues to improve reporting methods. The council is starting to include clauses in contracts requiring suppliers to report emissions attributed to the contract. We hope to include similar clauses in more contracts moving forward.

**Table 3. Scope 3 emissions**

Source	Data source and conversion	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Electricity transmission & distribution losses (Scope 2)	Utilities consumption information	79	64	53	68
Water supply & treatment	Direct from utility company		39	35	32
Water supply & treatment- Sovereign Centre	Direct from meter reads – (NB. Substantial change/improvement to conversion factors for 2021)	15	15	6	5
Towner Art Gallery - energy use only	Direct from consumption information (gas & electricity)		232	125	153
Staff – Public transport	Revised method 21/22 - Estimated km based on spend (rail assumed at 54p/mile)			0.3	0.8
Staff - Mileage	Calculated using miles claimed and an average petrol car			28	19
Grounds Maintenance contract (vehicle and machinery fuel)					84
Housing Maintenance contract (vehicle fuel) 2021					80
Well to tank (WTT) diesel (litres)			178	213	165
WTT unleaded (litres)			1.4	1.1	0.5
WTT gas oil (litres)					2.4
WTT gas (kWh gross CV)			268	236	276
WTT gas (m3)			134	50	337

WTT electricity generated			104	68	201
WTT electricity transmission & distribution losses			9	6	18
<b>Total (tonnes CO2e)</b>					<b>1442</b>

### 3. Eastbourne Borough Carbon Emissions Summary

<b>Data Source</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
BEIS data- <a href="#">UK local authority and regional CO2 emissions – data tables (excel)</a> 'territorial emissions'	297.6 kt CO <sub>2</sub> Estimate for 2017 has not been updated to CO <sub>2</sub> e	326.8 kt CO <sub>2</sub> e Note: now in CO <sub>2</sub> e	304.7 kt CO <sub>2</sub> e (7% reduction on 2018)	279.4 kt CO <sub>2</sub> e (8% reduction on 2019)

The main source of emissions remains domestic buildings, closely followed by transport.

The Tyndall Centre and the University of Manchester have carried out analysis that recommends a minimum of a 12.3% per year reduction to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. The borough as a whole is a long way off meeting this year-on-year reduction.

Their 2021 budget tool suggests a cumulative carbon dioxide emission budget of 2.1 million tonnes for the period 2020 to 2100.

At current rates we will use our entire 80-year budget in less than 7 years.

Eastbourne Borough Council has pledged to help make Eastbourne Carbon Neutral by 2030. We must not be put off by the challenge but must rally together and work together to improve the environment of our town for our residents, children, businesses and visitors now and in the future in order to mitigate global climate change.

## 4. Airbourne Carbon Emission Estimate 2022

For the first time this year, the council has collected sufficient data to estimate the carbon emissions that have resulted from the Airbourne airshow held over 4 days 18-21 August 2022.

Data was collected from traders (mileage), staff (mileage), display personnel (mileage), waste collected (tonnes), on-site generated power (litres consumed), air display teams (airshow fuel consumption as well as transportation/travel fuel and smoke).

Electricity and water consumption data has not been collected but is accounted for in the scope 2 and scope 3 emissions for the council as reported in section 2 above.

Notable points:

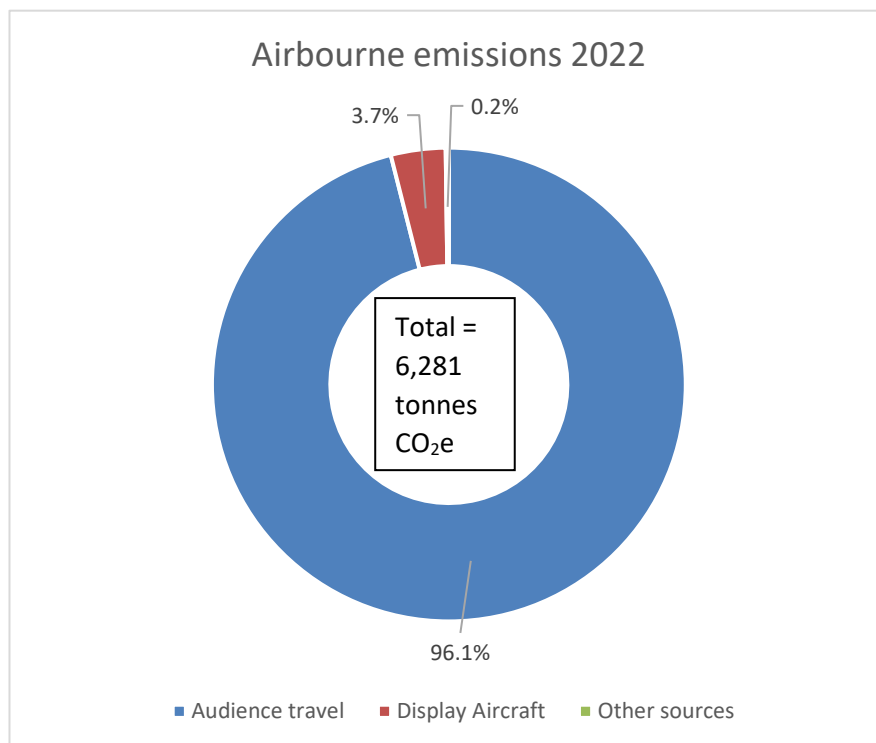
- Mains power was provided to: event control; Airbourne office; Wish Tower catering village. It was also provided to the following sites which have previously been on diesel on-site generated power: stewards rest tent; radio tent; press tent; flight control cabin; Radio Airbourne; medical centre. The mains power is a renewable tariff that is accounted for within the council's scope 2 emissions report.
- Generated power aimed to use renewable diesel (otherwise known as hydro treated vegetable oil[HVO])- some generators were brought to site containing diesel which was consumed on site and subsequent road diesel had to be purchased due to a delayed HVO delivery.

### Use of HVO/renewable diesel for generators prevented the emissions of 7.5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

- Free mains water was provided with tap locations promoted through the 'Refill not Landfill' campaign.
- Recycling was attempted but unfortunately was 100% contaminated with general waste. All waste was sent to Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility.
- A rail strike occurred whilst the event was on, increasing car travel.
- Cycle parking was provided.
- The event showcased the world's first certified electric plane.
- Traders were prohibited from selling plastic and local traders were incentivised with a pitch fee discount.
- 710 surveys were completed in person or online - the survey asked people various questions about their visit, for example about their travel mode, distance travelled, if they stayed/were residents, recycling and purchasing amongst other things.
- Of those who completed the survey 23% stayed in Eastbourne at least one night. The audience travel emissions are therefore overestimated (so can be considered a worse-case scenario) as the reported emissions have assumed a return journey for each visitor each day.



## Estimated Emissions Breakdown



**750,000**  
estimated audience over 4 days

<b>Audience related travel emissions over 4 days</b>		
Absolute value	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	6,033,140
<b>Display Aircraft (transport &amp; display fuel consumed)</b>		
Absolute value	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	234,433
<b>Other Sources</b>		
<b>Staff related travel emissions over whole event (4 days)</b>		
Motor vehicle (average petrol car)	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	930
Walk/Cycle	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	0
<b>Trader &amp; display personnel related emissions (1x return journey)</b>		
Average Diesel van	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	4855
Average rigid HGV (up to 7.5t)	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	429
Average petrol car	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	1765
<b>On-site generators</b>		
Diesel generators- absolute	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	4611
HVO generators- absolute	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	108
<b>Waste</b>		
Waste sent to Energy From Waste plant	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	728
<b>Total emissions:</b>		<b>6,280,999</b>

**Audience travel is the greatest source of emissions**



You are here: Plan Your Visit > Travel

Travel

Travel to Airbourne: Eastbourne International Airshow

### Next Steps

- Create Airbourne Environmental Policy
- Create Action Plan to further reduce environmental impact
- Continue to work towards a greener future and sustainable tourism
- Determine offset policy and offset 2022 emissions, subject to due diligence
- Continue lobbying for better rail services to the town



## 5. The Climate Emergency Strategy - PROJECT CASE STUDIES

Below you will find a selection of key projects recently completed or underway. Some have been delivered by the council, some by the community and some in partnership. This work and the projects currently being planned is fundamental to the delivery of Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030.

The strategy currently contains 67 actions across 8 action areas. please see the full spreadsheet in section 6 for more information of actions within each area.

47 actions (70%) are currently reported as green, 16 (24%) are amber and 4 (6%) are red.

### Community Action at the E-Hive

As part of the local community's response to the Climate Emergency, the Eastbourne Climate Coalition opened a pop-up Climate Emergency Hub in the Beacon Shopping Centre on 1st November 2022.



The hub ran seven days a week within normal shopping hours for six weeks until 13th December. It was an opportunity for local residents to engage with many of the local initiatives for reducing the carbon footprint of the town and to discover how to live more sustainably. The hub was named the E-Hive in anticipation of it becoming a place buzzing with excitement about all things eco.

The E-Hive was staffed entirely by volunteers and hosted a range of workshops, displays and presentations, as well as being a welcoming space where people could drop in for a chat and find information about the many local groups working on various local environmental projects. Useful advice, such as how to save energy and reduce fuel bills, or about how to repair, reuse or upcycle items such as pre-loved clothes, was available. Also, some groups provided items for sale, with all profits going to the various local environmental campaigns.





### Solar Together

The Solar Together 2021/22 scheme ran in Autumn 2021 as a 'reverse auction' where building owners/homeowners signed up as interested in installing PV panels and suppliers then bid for the work, with the lowest price winning.

The scheme has seen **53 PV installations** across the borough that is forecast to reduce carbon emissions by over **950 tonnes carbon** in their lifetime

The council hopes to be able to publicise the next scheme later in 2023.



### Decarbonising our Housing Stock (DOHS) Project - Developing the regional market

Homes First manages the council housing stock for Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council (in partnership with Eastbourne Homes Ltd). Lewes District Council is part of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB), a partnership between seven local authorities, and in 2021 GBEB established a cross-sector Housing Retrofit Taskforce to work out how we can make homes zero carbon by 2030. Homes First is leading on this work and heads up a team of external specialists including academia, whole carbon experts, retrofit experts and specialists in energy and the supply chain. Eastbourne Borough Council properties will directly benefit from this work as a result of the joint working arrangement with Lewes.

The Taskforce's three objectives are to:

- determine how public sector homes and buildings can take be improved at scale across the region while boosting new skills, quality 'green-collar' jobs, and investment in low carbon industries;
- identify and promote long-term changes to energy usage while also increasing private sector engagement with the whole-lifecycle decarbonisation agenda;
- future-proof the region's homes

Core considerations that underpin the taskforce's decarbonisation decisions include the central role lower energy bills play in tackling poverty and how housing procurement tools can be used at scale to disrupt the current system.

Plans need to be scalable and replicable and work with existing supply chains and budgets. Collectively, to 2030 the GBEB region's councils will spend around £1 billion on repairs and maintenance of council homes. While the region will look for external funding, net zero will largely need to be achieved within a limited budget, not least because procurement needs to be coordinated and long-term to allow the development of a supply chain and local market.

A deep assessment of 10 main types of housing has helped to shape what the future zero carbon pathways could be with the need to balance the cost to the landlord against the benefit to the tenant and whole-life carbon reductions.

The findings will be used to support the best possible decarbonisation strategy and possibly set new standards across the region, provide certainty for the supply chain and private sector, and establish the scale of work needed so that providers can gear up and train local staff. It is also hoped that working at scale will increase purchasing power and reduce unit costs.

Homes First in partnership with Eastbourne Homes have employed a Community Development and Sustainability Adviser as part of its zero-carbon work. Sustainability messaging is being promoted under the brand 'Not Costing the Earth' to raise awareness with accessible, down-to-earth, non-technical information. Non-technical guides on low carbon hardware such as solar PV panels explain how they work and benefit tenants who have them. The adviser has also worked in tandem with the taskforce, both supporting tenants involved in pilots and evaluating the best ways to engage and communicate with those whose homes are being retrofitted.

### **Council wins Forestry Commission grant to examine using local timber for carbon zero homes**

Eastbourne Borough Council has been awarded a grant of £200k from the Forestry Commission to explore using local timber to create commercial products for the housing retrofit market.

The council successfully applied to the commission's Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds which supports innovative projects to encourage bringing more woods across the country into active management. Nationally, around 41% of woodlands are not actively managed and this can impact on biodiversity. This exciting project perfectly combines the council's management of the downland and woodlands around Eastbourne with the commitment to delivering zero carbon homes by 2030.





## Homes First User Guides

The Homes First Team is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its housing stock. The team have produced guides and resources to support our commitment to reach zero carbon and to help you do the same.

An example of this guidance can be found in our user guide for Solar PV & Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) User guides, which have been produced to explain how Solar PV on houses and flats can work, and how tenants can get the best value from, along with energy saving advice, tips and contact for help.

To help develop and comment on trialling and piloting carbon neutral solutions to heating and powering homes over the next 1 to 3 years, the Council will additionally focus on tenant involvement and consultations.



## Transport

### Electric Vehicle Chargepoints to be installed into council car parks and Car Club comes to Eastbourne

The council has recently entered into contract with Connected Kerb, one of the UK's leading providers of electric vehicle charging solutions, to rollout fast charging into our car parks. Initially, in 3 car parks across the town, the council aims to install 18 charging bays with an additional bay in the town centre to enable an electric car club vehicle to be installed, by April/May 2023. Further charging opportunities will then be evaluated during 2023/24.



The council is in discussion with a car club provider to install 2 vehicles in the town centre. One will likely be electric and located in one of our car parks whilst the second will be conventionally fuelled and parked on-street. The council hopes these will be in place early 2023.

Paying per trip allows individuals and organisations to access a car without the need to own and maintain it, lowering costs overall. The average UK car is parked up to 95% of the time so cars can be expensive considering how little they are actually used. Car club vehicles are also more likely to be lower carbon and newer than cars that are owned and they can free up resident parking bays in busy town centres by reducing the need for ownership in the area.

## Sussex-Air taxi study project



Sussex Air were successful with their bid for the 2021/2022 Air Quality Grant which included a Taxi Study. The aim of the proposed taxi engagement project is to facilitate a transition to EV vehicles by taxi drivers which will help districts to build an infrastructure that is convenient, reliable and works for the taxi trade and will drive the progression of taxi licensing policies for EV drivers.

The outcomes of the Taxi Study project will provide data for technical and financial feasibility surveys to enable installations of EV charge points and will help inform network planning across the county.

The purpose of the study is to establish the demand for charge points by the taxi community and gather information on driver attitudes towards EV driving. This will include:

- The preferred locations, and speeds for EV charge points to best serve the taxi community – generally and in specifics;
- An indication of when charge points will be required in these locations;
- Insights into key messages to shape engagement plans;
- Direction on ways to offset the cost of purchase/lease for the taxi community.

The study will reflect the needs all taxi drivers, both private hire and Hackney, across Sussex

The study should conclude early 2023



## Workplaces

### Eastbourne Sustainable Business & Solar Summit



### SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS & SOLAR SUMMIT 2022

Aimed at East Sussex businesses and institutions that are interested in cutting costs and going greener against the backdrop of spiralling energy prices and a target to scale back greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 the successful summit ran on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and attracted approximately 120 attendees.

Expert speakers were brought together from a wide range of companies and organisations, from consultants on business sustainability to solar-PV manufacturers, solar installers, retrofit specialists, community energy groups and central government.

It was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and information about renewable energy, financing options and sustainability through a mixture of presentations, networking opportunities and Q&A sessions.

The event was organised by the Eastbourne Eco-Action Network and supported by the council, Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce and sponsors.



## Biodiversity

### CHANGING CHALK - Connecting nature, people and heritage

Changing Chalk is a partnership of organisations working together towards a sustainable future for the eastern South Downs. Led by the National Trust, the partnership will connect nature, people and heritage by restoring lost habitats, bringing histories to life, and offering new experiences in the outdoors.

Working with the communities of Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Lewes we aim to protect and restore the Downs landscape for people to enjoy, for health and wellbeing, for nature's recovery and for climate resilience. The landscape and communities are facing multiple threats. The project area incorporates some of the most economically deprived wards in the UK, with high unemployment and physical and mental ill-health. On the neighbouring Downs, the internationally significant chalk grassland is facing rapid decline, with many of the remaining sites small and fragmented. Many heritage sites that document the story of human settlement on the Downs are also under threat.



Bringing £5m investment to the area, Changing Chalk will respond to these threats by breaking down barriers to participation and creating new opportunities to inspire people to connect with their landscape. We will bring rural and urban landscapes together to reverse the decline of the fragile chalk grassland, inviting local communities to play an active role in caring for its future. Over four years, Changing Chalk will deliver 18 collaborative and inter-connected projects under the themes of **Restoring Chalkland Biodiversity**, **Connecting Downs and Towns**, and **Hearts and Histories of the Downs**. A community grants scheme will be available from 2023, awarding £150,000 to community-led initiatives which help achieve the Changing Chalk objectives and vision.

### Wildflower planting



Eastbourne Borough Council has recently turned 15 areas of council owned land into wildflower and pollinator havens.

We have turned a bowling green, which was heavily dependent on chemicals and weed control into a wildflower meadow, which is great for pollinators as well as looking nice and using a lot less water.

The seed mixes used are especially designed to attract bees and butterflies to encourage our vitally important pollinators.

The ground is prepared using environmentally friendly methods such as foam stream and vinegar based products to give the seeds the best possible chance of germinating and flowering in order to create and enable a new seed bank of more beneficial plants to become established.

The pictures are of the old Princes Park bowling green (left) and Wilmington Square (right).





## Food

### Eastbourne Food Partnership

Eastbourne Food Partnership Director, Andrew Durling, travelled to Westminster this July, for the Sustainable Food Places Day of Action and Celebration at Parliament. The event brought together representatives from food partnerships across the UK and politicians including Eastbourne MP Caroline Ansell, to discuss the importance of local and national food strategies. Taking place less than 24 hours after the hottest UK temperature ever recorded, the relationship between climate breakdown and food systems could not have been more pressing. Inspired by Andy's experiences, Eastbourne Food Partnership is looking forward to working with Eastbourne Borough Council in the coming year to create a local food system in



Eastbourne that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive, to ensure long-term food security for all.

Extreme weather events and crop failures, high profile COP for both climate and biodiversity global action and the publication of Henry Dimbleby's Food Strategy have made the relationship between food systems, climate crisis and biodiversity loss increasingly evident in 2022. In this context, Eastbourne Food Partnership recognises the importance of local food systems for building resilience and empowering communities to access food that is good for our health and our planet. They have spent the year developing their local network of community food initiatives, supporting partners to tackle food waste, increase education around food, and develop growing skills in the community. As the partnership develops, we can expect exciting campaigns around community growing, peri-urban farming and a whole school approach to food. To find out more or to get involved, email [nancy@eastbournefoodpartnership.org.uk](mailto:nancy@eastbournefoodpartnership.org.uk).





## Climate Adaptation



### **Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme**

The Environment Agency in partnership with Eastbourne Borough Council is developing a new, £100+ million large coastal flood and erosion risk management project for Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne.

This will be one of the largest coastal flood risk projects in the country, as we plan to make Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne resilient to coastal flooding in response to the current climate emergency. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to an estimated 10,000 residential properties as well as key infrastructure, local businesses, heritage sites and nature conservation areas. Along with reducing the flood risk, we will also be looking to increase biodiversity by 20% and reduce the amount of carbon generated throughout the life of the project, by at least 45% with an aim of becoming Net Zero by 2030.



## Carbon Capture

### Jubilee Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy is her chosen way for us to leave a legacy of her Platinum Jubilee - to plant trees and shrubs to celebrate her reign.

In November 2022 we will be planting 70 trees and as many accompanying shrubs alongside the path that rises up Paradise Down from the junction of Paradise Drive and Link Road. We aim to make this a beautiful start to a well-used way up the hill, and a lasting tribute to our late Queen that has many benefits to the environment as well. The escarpment will become a much richer place for wildlife, and a beautiful and engaging place for people. We encourage sponsorship of trees, seating and waymarkers; work with schools and other groups to make the escarpment a place of active enjoyment and connection with nature; encourage and enable people to play a personal part in looking after it.

The Eastbourne Jubilee Green Canopy project is a collaborative venture between:





- Eastbourne Jubilee Green Canopy, a (once registration is complete) Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up specifically to oversee the venture.
- 3VA, a long-established Eastbourne-based voluntary action charity, who will hold the funds, perform all the administrative work, maintain the relationships with other Eastbourne organisations involved in the venture, and work with them to raise additional funds for their specific projects.
- Eastbourne Borough Council, who own the land through which the Avenue runs (having acquired it through an act of parliament in 1929 to protect it for the benefit of the town). EBC will own anything planted or placed on their land – please note that your sponsorship does not give you any rights of ownership.
- Treebourne, Eastbourne’s extraordinarily successful tree-planting charity.
- Eastbourne’s schools, many of whom are keen to have spaces on the escarpment where their pupils can learn to understand and appreciate nature.
- Other local Eastbourne groups with an interest in particular sections of the Avenue. These include the Babylon Woods group, Old Town Library, the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and Meads Community Association.
- The Towner, who are helping with the design of benches, waymarkers etc, and whose development at Black Robin Farm lies on the track of the Avenue.
- Sussex Wildlife Trust, who are advising on local ecologies.

### Accelerating nature-based climate solutions



**SOUTH EAST**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP

Kent Wildlife Trust are currently delivering a South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Project on Accelerating Nature Based Climate Solutions, primarily focussed with carbon sequestration. The project area covers East Sussex, Kent and Essex and there will be a specific case study on Lewes district with Officers working closely with the delivery team to ensure the legacy of the project.



Work undertaken as part of this project aims to:

- Provide an understanding of the demand for nature-based projects from local authority climate emergency plans and the local businesses seeking to invest in local carbon offsetting.
  - Assess the ‘readiness’ of nature-based organisations to develop and deliver nature-based projects for carbon sequestration and identify gaps in skills, knowledge and capacity that stand in their way.
  - Produce resources to support the development and delivery of a coherent nature-based carbon sequestration offer.
  - Begin to develop demonstration projects to showcase innovation and good practice.
- e) Understand what a SELEP-wide ‘brokerage hub’ might look like and begin to create a framework that can bring together ‘buyers’ and ‘sellers’ to co-develop nature-based carbon sequestration projects.

## Birds2BHeard

Eastbourne has a growing population of young people who care passionately about the future of the planet. The town's current youth activism builds on a legacy created by young residents over 25 years ago.

The Birds2BHeard project was inspired by 'Leave It To Us' the first United Nations Children's Conference on the Environment which took place in Eastbourne in 1995. The idea for this pioneering international conference was conceived by local children. Over 800 delegates attended from 87 countries putting Eastbourne on the world stage as a centre for youth environmental activism.

In 2020, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this remarkable event, pupils from West Rise Primary School, Pashley Down Infants School and Gildredge House Free School decided to communicate their concerns about the environment to the then prime-minister Boris Johnson in the form of paper birds. This example of youth-initiated art activism inspired a further 5,000 children from 20 Eastbourne schools to make paper birds each bearing their distinctive messages to world leaders attending the 2021 COP26 Conference on Climate Change. A huge flock of paper birds arrived in Glasgow, appearing at the conference and taking part in the youth march and rally and the global day of action march.

The Birds2BHeard paper birds have now returned home to Eastbourne and were displayed at Towner Gallery Sept-Oct 2022, to draw attention to the November 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference.



## Treebourne

Treebourne continues to go from strength to strength. This season will see the planting of a further 500 street trees across Eastbourne under their Greening Eastbourne Streets programme. A number of one-day tree-planting events in the town's open spaces will give volunteers the chance to get involved in person, and make a positive change to our natural environment. And the blossoming Seeds4Kids programme provides an exciting opportunity for the younger generation to engage. This autumn, an incredible 5000 young people from local schools and youth groups will be using Treebourne kits to gather and germinate seeds of local native tree species. The thousands of trees they grow can be moved to one of Treebourne's tree nurseries, or planted out at sites around the town over the next 2 to 3 years, as Treebourne continues its campaign to turn Eastbourne green.



**Left** - Volunteers at Treebourne tree care event this summer.

**Below left** - Seeds4Kids kits arriving at Parklands School   **Below right** - Treebourne member watering one of our street trees



6. Action Plan Update 2022