

Partner Engagement Survey Report 2024

Introduction

A 16-page consultation document was produced, to engage on thematic strategic goals and targets and key strategic areas such as the vision for Lewes district, harnessing community action, policy framework and alignment to the LDC corporate plan and the UN sustainability goals. This was based on the original Climate Change Strategy 2021 with some revisions to the vision and goals. The consultation document was integrated into an easy to complete online survey which was sent to 24 town and parish councils and 52 groups and organisations across the district. These included “umbrella” groups such as Ouse Valley Climate Action, Lewes District Food Partnership, Greenhaven’s, Climate Hubs in Seaford, Lewes and Newhaven. who shared the survey with their networks and groups. Consultation meetings were arranged with Lewes Climate Hub, OVCA, OVESCO and Lewes District Food Partnership.

A total of 35 survey responses were received. 23 groups, 3 parish councils and 2 town councils responded. A pop-up consultation was held at an LDC event for wildflower and tree planting groups which was attended by over 20 groups, several of which fed into the consultation.

The survey could be accessed via a link or a QR code and we were able to send an offline copy. The consultation was open for 2 and a half weeks during February.

Organisations and Groups

Castle Hill Group and Wild Coast Sussex, Common Cause C-operative Ltd, Cycle Lewes, Environmental Law Foundation responding on behalf of Love Our Ouse, Friends of Lewes, Get Bikery CIC, GIA (Gardening In Action) CIC, Go Local CIC, Growing Concerns - Thinking Worldly, Joining Locally & Doing It Yourself, Havens Community Hub, KP Projects CIC, Lewes District Food Partnership, Lewes Climate Hub, Lewes Swift Supporters, Ouse Valley Climate Action, Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO), Seaford Environmental Alliance, Sharing Skills CIC, South Chailey Ratepayers, Sussex Wildlife Trust - Wilder Ouse, Transition Town Lewes, 3VA.

Parish Councils

Hamsey Parish Council, Westmeston Parish Council, East Chilmington Parish Council






Town Councils

Lewes Town Council, Seaford Town Council

Individuals

8

1. The Vision By 2030 we will have a net zero carbon and fully climate resilient council. Through our partnerships we will have enabled the district as a whole to progress to net zero carbon and to address the ecological emergency. We will be able to clearly demonstrate progress on the climate mitigation measures we are taking and we will lead on adapting ourselves and our communities to reduce the risks posed by projected climate change. Download 'The Vision' section of the strategy How much do you agree or disagree with the vision statement for Lewes district?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		34.29% 12
2	Agree		34.29% 12
3	Neither agree nor disagree		14.29% 5
4	Disagree		5.71% 2
5	Strongly disagree		11.43% 4

Comment summary:

- Especially agree with providing leadership
- Needs to be clearer and pick up more areas covered in rest of document, needs to be strengthened.
- Clear and important commitment
- Refresh is welcome.
- very detailed and important that there is a clear message that mitigation is preventing the problem.
- Agree with being ambitious.
- must stress we need to work together.
- need to better link climate and ecological emergency.
- Should be climate change & nature strategy.
- increase resilience of communities.
- more reference to nature crisis.
- Too detailed but main points are very good.
- agree but missing soil erosion issue.
- How will emissions savings and other indicators be measured and quantified both for LDC and the District?
- How will progress be communicated?
- Would welcome clarity on the definition of the term 'fully climate resilient'.
- Opinion that 6 years to 2030 is quite a short timescale for achieving this - is this realistic?

1. The Vision By 2030 we will have a net zero carbon and fully climate resilient council. Through our partnerships we will have enabled the district as a whole to progress to net zero carbon and to address the ecological emergency. We will be able to clearly demonstrate progress on the climate mitigation measures we are taking and we will lead on adapting ourselves and our communities to reduce the risks posed by projected climate change. Download 'The Vision' section of the strategy How much do you agree or disagree with the vision statement for Lewes district?

Negative themes:

- Net zero is the problem.
- There is no emergency.
- It's too late to act.

2. Would you like your organisations logo included on the Harnessing Community Action page of the strategy?

File Type	Average Size	Files Uploaded
To view the files uploaded, go into the individual results.	answered	12

3. Would you like your organisation reflected as a case study in the Climate and Nature Strategy annual update?

1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	21
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4. The Youth Voice Please download 'The Youth Voice' section of the strategy. How do think the council should engage with young people in the district about nature and climate change to make sure their views are heard?






Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	28
Theme Summary:	answered	28

- 1 Add Value- What's Already Being Done?
- 4 Answer Is A Statement Not Relevant To Question
- 9 Talk Direct To Young People Where They Are
- 6 Work With Schools
- 8 Work With Groups Already Delivering Projects With Young People
- 3 Young People Should Not Be Asked
- 1 Fund Or Support Funded Projects
- 2 Peoples Assemblies Or Similar Forum/Panel
- 1 Engage Them To Help Fight Climate Anxiety
- 1 Use Seaford TC Young Mayor

Do you have any comments on the following sections of the strategy: Policy Framework Alignment with LDC Corporate Plan 2024-2028 Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals Download these sections of the strategy and enter your comments below.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Policy Framework	68.42%	13
<p>Answers imply a lacking understanding that the policy framework page is a representation of policy and legislation that we are working within - this will be clarified.</p> <p>Comment summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDC aims are more ambitious than government, and we agree with yours Should reference Net Zero review, UKCRA3 and other CCC reports. Under National Policy include Environmental Improvement Plan 202 Agree UK Gov. won't see it through, too much house building in district. Make it easy to be part of the solution. Net zero work is not needed. Be clearer on Paris agreement - well below 2oC/1.5oC Recognise that Towns and Parishes have their own policies/statements. Include noise and light pollution. One comment moved to Sustainable transport section. 			
2	Alignment with LDC Corporate Plan 2024-2028	78.95%	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments largely made reflect action areas- comments moved. 3 comments based on negative associations with council and/or reiteration of previously made. comments around there being no climate emergency. 3 comments supporting links made between the strategies. 			
3	Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals	73.68%	14
<p>Comment summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered putting sustainable transport under SDG11 rather than SDG3 as Sustainable Transport is about more than health and wellbeing (which is just one exampleof wider impact.....) e.g. reduce traffic congestion, pollution (air and noise), road collisions, costs to health and social services and consumer cost , increase mobility options for non-drivers, and ST encourages more efficient land use patterns, or at least avoid contradicting these objectives Win-Win Transportation Solutions. Needs to be more robust in shortcomings of SDG and where alignments are more explicit. You have presented examples of alignment, for example 8 on decent work, and there is evidence you are working towards that with local jobs and training." The statement that 'No One is left behind' is welcome and emphasises that everyone is impacted by climate and nature, and everyone should benefit from mitigations taken and improvements made to the natural environment. A valuable outcome of more detailed analysis of the strategy's action plan would enable a closer connection for people to understand what the SDG's would look like in the Lewes District by 2030." There is a need for firmer action on the "Life below water" goal, as proposed by Love our Ouse." 6 comments received summarised as: "too vague"; "nonsensical wish list"; "no-one voted for the UN"; "UN Goals are unachievable". UN sustainable development goals not fit for purpose. Revisit whether alignment still works. 			

Energy and the built environment Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree	 20.59%	7
2	agree	 26.47%	9
3	neither agree or disagree	 8.82%	3
4	disagree	0.00%	0
5	strongly disagree	 5.88%	2
6	Other (please specify):	 38.24%	13
		answered	34
<p>Comment Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing on retrofitting existing domestic or commercial properties. 			





Energy and the built environment Do you agree with the councils goals:

- Stretch the solar capacity target. What is renewable diesel? Why not extend the reduction in carbon emissions to 2030?
- Reflect an increased demand for electricity as there is switch from using oil and gas to electrify heat. Solar PV in the Southeast is a key generator of clean electricity, recognition of additional technologies: Heat Pumps, Battery Storage, wind and expansion of EV charging. Increase in smart energy delivery. These are all needed to meet Net Zero.
- Retrofitting existing housing with insulation, energy-efficient heating, local green power, not on building new houses that have these.
- The provision of social, affordable, sustainable, energy and resource efficient, climate resilient housing will hinge on the determination of what is affordable.
- Sow solar panel fields with wildflower seeds, to provide wildlife benefit.
- More solar generation as so much more will be needed. Mention wind and storage capacity at local level.
- More engagement with communities and support in enabling community energy projects to be realised.
- Too much dependence on limiting emissions through use of renewable diesel as there are still associated emissions from the burning and land use so cannot be a long-term solution.
- More emphasis on decarbonisation of heat & moving towards decarbonised electricity in line with national targets.
- Not sure what social energy is? Presume this relates to housing. Maybe link to the Impact tool? Maybe mention of rural issues.
- Add the word “water” - We will support the provision of social, affordable, sustainable, energy “and water” resource efficient, climate resilient housing.
- We will engage early on with developers to ensure they produce low cost, low energy buildings – ADD MORE.
- ADD sustainable transport infrastructure - maximize land use and support walking and cycling infrastructure.
- Keep the renewables. Apply pressure to the energy generation companies to lessen their commissions and invest in infrastructure.

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the energy and built environment section? (15)

- GIA - Create solar and water catchment infrastructure at all our projects to reduce reliance on the grid and mains water by 98% by 2026
- South Chailey Ratepayers - Get local councils to focus on their core responsibilities - schools, roads, pavements, litter, lighting, drainage, etc.
- Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO) - Yes, 26MW of solar PV by 2030. We are also encouraging local homeowners and businesses to retro fit their homes with energy saving measures and micro generation where appropriate. We have a target to reach 1000 residents in the District with information through events and advice by December 2024.
- Individual - My organisation doesn't have a strategic goal or target. It is my belief that energy production and the built environment can only work if we adopt tribal methods, which are organic, not linear.
- Individual - I would like to see Farmers who have worked so hard to maintain a good industry given protection from mad green opinions.
- Lewes Swift Supporters - Including Swift bricks/bird bricks, positioned correctly, in all new builds and renovations.
- Friends of Lewes - To protect our environment for future generations by encouraging sustainability and the building of climate resilience, whilst adapting to the requirements of a low carbon future.
- Lewes Climate Hub - No, but with Ovesco we have had a season on reducing home energy use by insulation etc.
- Environmental Law Foundation responding on behalf of Love Our Ouse - No, other than the recognition that we live in an extremely water stressed part of the world and the river Ouse being of great concern for LOO, we would want to see water use and water resources managed within the limits of its own nature and not to its detriment. Development can have a serious ecological impact on rivers, not only in terms of population increase.
- Seaford Town Council - Climate Emergency Policy: Protect, conserve and enhance the town's-built environment and distinctive heritage by ensuring that any development is as sustainable as reasonably practicable, with sufficient infrastructure to support it and that all development meets the highest environmental standards. Identify and implement appropriate ways to minimise carbon usage.

Sustainable Travel and Air Quality Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		17.65%	6
2	agree		26.47%	9
3	neither agree or disagree		11.76%	4
4	disagree		0.00%	0
5	strongly disagree		2.94%	1

Sustainable Travel and Air Quality Do you agree with the councils goals:

6	Other (please specify):		41.18%	14
			answered	34

Comment summary

- What is AQAP? More explanation needed, does Lewes meet WHO guideline values?
- Fleet- zero carbon emissions (at tail pipe)
- Need AQAP now- its urgent- need date to target air quality improvements.
- EV's will never replace proper vehicles/not the future etc. (2 comments along these lines).
- Agree, but allow for an increase in ebikes, ecargo bikes for last mile deliveries and an increase in EV's using car clubs for LA, business, and public access. With a goal to reduce private vehicle ownership and speed up the transition to electric mobility.
- Pressure fuel producers to provide better fuels.
- Not much progress with AQ and active travel to date
- Agree with direction but targets and goals need to be more ambitious.
- Renewable diesel is not long-term solution.
- Add words on reducing road run-off into waterways.
- More work with ESCC and Town- learn from others eg. Hackney
- From Q5 Policy Framework: Cycle Lewes (edited) - Ambitious targets on transfer of travel from car to active travel/public transport are needed by 2040 and be agreed with ESCC, SDNP, Town Councils etc. A stronger objective is needed. Evidence shows that to mode shift away from cars you must create a hierarchy in which active transport is clearly prioritised above cars. Therefore, I suggest: 1. Committing to collect baseline data on trips by vehicle type – especially trips that are within towns (so less than about 1.5 miles distance). 2. Creating a measurable target with this: e.g. 80% of journeys under 1.5 miles to be walked or cycled in 2040. Examples to achieve this: Create safe, convenient, and pleasant bike and walking routes within and between towns. While we understand this is the responsibility of ESCC as the Highway Authority, districts and boroughs need to make greater efforts to enable progress with ESCC for any meaningful change is to be made.
- From Q 'Alignment with Corporate Plan' - Cycle Lewes (edited): Use of the term Public Realm instead of public spaces. We suggest learning from other councils which have induced a mode shift away from cars. Strong partnership working with ESCC and our Town to address this modal shift and specific infrastructure improvements in Lewes town, especially widening pavements. Promote and enable car-sharing and ride sharing. Work with schools to reduce car travel to school, implementing a school streets programme Where vehicle transport is unavoidable, encourage/ promote/require the installation of EV charging facilities, e.g. through planning.






Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Sustainable Travel and Air Quality section? (16)

Comment:

Not sure if it is a good idea to ask for other organisations' goals and targets, as it raises expectations that they WILL be included when that may not be practical or may not align with council priorities.

- GIA - We aim to move our fleet from diesel to electric by mid-2025, the current barrier is affordability and availability of charging. We are actively seeking additional funding for our transport bursary to encourage our in-to-work programme participants to use public transport.
- Hamsey Parish Council - Anything to reduce traffic fumes at Cooksbridge Level Crossing
- Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO) - Enable the setting up a community ecargo bike scheme operating a minimum of ten bikes in the Lewes District for hire an delivery by 2025.
- Sharing Skills CIC - Please see the report commissioned by Seaford Community Partnership and OVCA - Seaford better cycling options.
- Friends of Lewes -To improve our environment, increase biodiversity and mitigate the risks resulting from climate change by collaborating with other local groups with such aims, e.g., through our partnership with Lewes Climate Hub
- Lewes Climate Hub - Not formalised but we are working with partner groups to influence transport in Lewes.
- Seaford Environmental Alliance - Promoting cycling and use of public transport.
- Ouse Valley Climate Action - The main barrier to uptake of active travel is sheer quantity of traffic. The strategy needs to look at meaningful traffic prevention in towns like Lewes. Reclaiming road space should be a priority, all over the region.
- Lewes Town Council - Yes we have strategic aims as part of work around integrated movement strategy in partnership with other organisations.
- Seaford Town Council - STC has two strategic goals pertinent to this: enhancing connectivity between the town centre, seafront and other areas of Seaford utilising active travel as one mechanism, and the point in the Climate Emergency Policy: Encourage use of low-emissions transport options both in public and shared transport and active travel, for health as well as the positive environmental benefits. Continue to develop safe walking, cycling and mobility scooter routes and promote cycling, scootering, and walking around the town.

Biodiversity Download this section of the strategy Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		25.00%	8
2	agree		18.75%	6
3	neither agree or disagree		12.50%	4
4	disagree		3.13%	1
5	strongly disagree		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		40.63%	13
			answered	32

Comment summary:

- Could be stronger and broader.
- Biodiversity net gain is often a greenwash by developers wanting to built on Greenfield sites. The council needs to be stricter with its planning policies.
- Plant more trees and stop chopping down mature trees.
- Stop building on green field sites.
- Agree, but also need to recognise the benefits of renewable energy generation such as ground mount solar PV on intensively farmed land by allowing land to rest, recover and increase biodiversity.
- Would be interested to know more about the carbon capture fund and why regional work is described as having 'stalled'.
- Need to monitor BNG. Let areas go wild, clear and educational messaging for public on these areas.
- There is evidence of progress, e.g. with the Cockshut stream.
- Not ambitious enough
- Nothing on public spaces, renaturing etc
- Alignment between use of terms biodiversity and nature. Nature based solutions could be mentioned. Alignment to blue and green carbon. UKCCRA3 top 4 risks are biodiversity focused. National State of Nature findings should be used rather than global. Soil could be separated out from flora.
- More specific reference to the Ouse and various wording amendments suggested.
- 2 comments referencing issues around no net zero

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the biodiversity section?





- GIA - We are conducting extensive research and trials into increasing location-specific solutions to increase biodiversity without causing negative impacts on current ecosystems; the core focus of our work is plant species selection that will maintain fauna populations while being climate resilient. The biggest barrier to completing and disseminating this work is a lack of funding.
- Hamsey Parish Council - We would like to see the fields (now proposed development site 19HY) in Cooksbridge discussed in a meeting with the landowners as a potential site for BNG and included in the Nature Recovery Strategy. It's a prime site that 'could be delivered in the next 5-10 years', also Opportunity for better efforts'. The beautiful spaces between Lewes /Hamsey and Cooksbridge hosts some fantastic wildlife as documented on Hamsey Wildlife Facebook page, but it could do so much better. Hamsey Parish Council HPC would support any financial incentive which could help the landowners do the right thing. We would also welcome discussions involving the landowners of The Platt/Field South of Beechwood Hall, in Cooksbridge which is a designated Local Green Space. Perhaps the landowners would be open to similar incentives.
- Westmeston Parish Council - Very small rural Parish Council
- Ovesco - 100% biodiversity net gain for projects implementing ground mount solar PV.
- Individual - Nature, in my opinion, creates its own biodiversity and it is not for humans to ascertain how they can control or maintain biodiversity.
- Growing Concerns - Productive organic food growing, soil remediation alongside wildlife gardening. Skill sharing and educating adults and children in plant guilds (what plants support each other like planting Nasturtiums as Black Fly foils to save your food crops), plant-animal guilds(Certain plants attract specific insects and wildlife.), I currently receive funding from The House project to share plants with people. As it gives us somethings to think outside of ourselves, improves social cohesion and alleviated social isolation. Upskills people in their practical horticultural skills. Even the most macho man has no qualms about growing a chilli plant... Obviously growing traditional culinary herbs and a few tomatoes every year is nice. But, the real question to ask is; How many meals do current growers in the district eat from their own crop every year? Short answer is; very few! No more than a couple usually... The older folks at the House Project need no explanation of what Dig For Victory stood for, they remember Ration Books... The whole Telscombe Tye is used as a For-Profit business with no Not-For-Profit community activities what-so-ever. This is not in alignment with the sentiments of Gorham's Gift... How much land area does it cover again???
- Lewes Swift Supporters- To increase food and habitat for the insects and invertebrates on which Swifts depend for their food, we would like the hedgerows in fields and over the downs to be restored to provide wildlife corridors, mature trees to be protected, and more wetland and mud provided through ponds, scrapes and rewiggling of streams and tributaries, as in the excellent Cockshut Restoration Project. For the same reason, we would like the

Biodiversity Download this section of the strategy Do you agree with the councils goals:

verges and open spaces managed properly to encourage our native wildflowers to thrive, that is, annual mowing and collection of arisings.

- Friends of Lewes - To increase tree canopy cover in Lewes, from the current 11.5% to the minimum recommendation for urban environments of 20%. We will do this by building on our successful projects to date and supporting other local groups with similar aims. To improve our environment, increase biodiversity and mitigate the risks resulting from climate change by collaborating with other local groups with such aims.
- Seaford Environmental Alliance - Campaigning to stop the use of pesticides and regular mowing on grass verges and other public green spaces.
- Environmental Law Foundation responding on behalf of Love Our Ouse- LOO's strategic goal is to be instrumental in giving the River Ouse a voice through the endorsement of the Ouse River Charter to be completed and considered for endorsement by LDC in Feb 2025.
- Ouse Valley Climate Action - Improved connectivity for wildlife habitat in urban and rural environments.
- Lewes Town Council - Landport Bottom management plan.
- Seaford Town Council - Members would welcome engaging with LDC on its plans to map trees and biodiversity in green spaces, and share knowledge on the Town Council's green spaces, to encourage treating Seaford's urban environment as a whole i.e. town and district working together for biodiversity planning and resources. STC Climate Emergency Policy: 13. Protect, conserve and enhance the town's natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our open spaces, public rights of way and green corridors.

Agriculture and Food Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		28.13% 9
2	agree		21.88% 7
3	neither agree or disagree		15.63% 5
4	disagree		0.00% 0
5	strongly disagree		0.00% 0
6	Other (please specify):		34.38% 11
			answered 32

Comment Summary:

- Livestock accounts for a significant emissions, should encourage people to eat less meat.
- Co- benefits of local energy generation combined with sustainable food production. For example, use of Acrovoltatics and live stock farming combined with renewable energy generation where possible.
- Actual real world sustainable horticulture is a Carbon Sink.
- Recognise and disseminate Food Partnership outcomes of issues around food poverty and the importance of dignity.
- Increasing food production across the region and ensuring farming methods used are beneficial to the land and wildlife. Ensure community engagement and new spaces in this drive, not just restricted to existing farms.
- Regenerative agriculture in terms of soil health, carbon storage and climate resilience.
- Pollution issues could be mentioned.
- Serious river pollution issues from agricultural practice. We would suggest adding an additional paragraph to the second paragraph. "In addition, Defra figures show that farms account for 40% of river pollution." About 75% of these emissions are from livestock with the remaining 25% from fertilizer application and are typically nitrous oxide emissions.
- The farmers are on our side. Please don't do anything to alienate them like in Europe.
- No ecological emergency
- Another unwanted damaging policy -'NFU target of UK net zero agriculture by 2040" (2 comments)






Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Agriculture and Food section?

- Westmeston Parish Council - Farming community
- Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO) - Develop a renewable energy project, which allows for co benefits of energy generation and sustainable food production in a changing climate.
- Individual - Agriculture and food targets/goals are unlikely to be achievable, though we might as well give it a try.
- Growing Concerns - For real information about livestock please refer to Tablehurst Farm and its use of Biodynamic Compassionate Farming practices for all of our needs....
- Friends of Lewes - To protect our environment for future generations by encouraging sustainability and the building of climate resilience, whilst adapting to the requirements of a low carbon future.

Agriculture and Food Do you agree with the councils goals:

- Seaford Environmental Alliance - Strategic goal: To increase the amount of land made available for food growing in Seaford.
- OVCA - Supporting community growing projects
- Lewes District Food Partnership - Strategic goals: Champion a Good Food Culture for Lewes District, Foster Young People's Connections with food, Develop a more dignified approach to community food support.
- Seaford Town Council - STC are working with external stakeholder and advice organisations to ensure the Town Council's management of agricultural land on Seaford Head is sustainable in the context of its natural environment.
- STC already has active partnerships with community groups such as the allotments, Morrisons community food plant beds, and the Seaford Community Garden at The Crouch. STC would welcome the inclusion of Town Councils when discussing the district and Sussex-wide food strategy.

Reducing Emissions from Waste Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		25.81%	8
2	agree		16.13%	5
3	neither agree or disagree		9.68%	3
4	disagree		3.23%	1
5	strongly disagree		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		45.16%	14
			answered	31


Comment's summary/themes:

- Remove charges for disposing of waste.
- Reduce single use plastics.
- Communicate message to businesses.
- Reduce waste at source so its not passed to consumer.
- No evidence waste is recycled.
- Agree with direction but needs more ambition.
- No targets to grow local circular economy or facilitate local second-hand usage schemes.
- Targets too limited to recycling and fleet emissions- renewable diesel and recycling are 'sticking plasters.
- Link water consumption to energy use and encourage grey water recycling (move this to water section)





Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Reducing Emissions from Waste section?

- Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO) - Yes, using local climate and energy champion we are encouraging homeowners to reduce their consumption of pure water in their homes.
- Sharing Skills CIC - We have a goal to help people explore if their items can be fixed before throwing them away and help them learn skills needed to repair at our Repair Cafe. With our Preloved school uniform exchange, we want to encourage more people to buy preloved school uniform before buying new.
- Friends of Lewes - To improve our environment, increase biodiversity and mitigate the risks resulting from climate change by collaborating with other local groups with such aims, e.g., through our support of Litter Free Lewes.
- Seaford Environmental Alliance - Strategic goal: A reduced amount for waste and recycling as more consideration is given to reuse, repair, refill (no packaging), refurbishment etc. over and above recycling as a means of disposal. Recycling as a last resort.
- Seaford Town Council - Points from STC Climate Emergency Policy: Continue to improve performance to prevent all types of pollution from our activities, including greenhouse gases. Minimise the production of waste from our own activities and adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy - reducing, reusing, recycling or composting wherever possible.

Water, Rivers and Seas Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		25.00%	8

Water, Rivers and Seas Do you agree with the councils goals:

2	agree		15.63%	5
3	neither agree or disagree		12.50%	4
4	disagree		3.13%	1
5	strongly disagree		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		43.75%	14
			answered	32


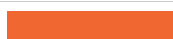
Comments Summary:

- Stop/reduce development.
- Too late for action
- Hold water companies to account/stronger action (6 mentions)
- More grey water recycling
- Don't restrict water use
- More ponds, rewiggle rivers, more water features for wildlife
- No net zero/no ecological emergency
- What about reservoir?
- We feel these are very weak on addressing pollution and biodiversity and seem overly focussed on individual water usage. Nothing about how to address pollution – particularly from sewage – nothing to improve quality of water or specifically to address aquatic biodiversity. Concerning that the onus of targets is on consumers (rightly) reducing their water shortage, but nothing on how to hold the water companies to account. Targets to manage and protect waterways seem empty without serious engagement with those organisations that are most responsible for polluting them. Also concerning that Southern Water's part of the target has 'no progress' on update – we would propose chasing Southern Water for the original target to be upheld rather than removing the target.
- Would be interesting to know about Southern water's commitment to deliver up to 50,000 water efficiency audits. Is this being removed in the refresh, because it is no longer consider relevant/important, or because the information is not being provided by the water supplier?
- In the beginning narrative we would add the following words to start:- "This Council recognises that our rivers play a vital role in the functioning of the hydrologic cycle, and that the viability of rivers to play this role depends on numerous factors, including the maintenance of surrounding river catchments, floodplains, and wetlands. The second paragraph we would like to add the words "and other stakeholders" after the words, Love Our Ouse"





Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Water, Rivers and Seas section?

- Lewes Swift Supporters - As previously written, more ponds, scrapes and rewiggled waterways to promote biodiversity, reverse the decline in the population of insects and provide more food for Swifts, bats and other insect-eating birds and mammals.
- Friends of Lewes - To protect our environment for future generations by encouraging sustainability and the building of climate resilience, whilst adapting to the requirements of a low carbon future. Strongly support the aims of Love our Ouse. Firmer action required on reducing permissions for non-permeable driveways and landscaping of developments. There is a great need for recognition of the inadvisability of building on flood plains and to recognise that so-called "flood defences" divert the flooding/water run-off to put other areas in danger.
- Seaford Environmental Alliance -Strategic goal: community resilience
- Environmental Law Foundation responding on behalf of Love Our Ouse - We have the strategic goal of realising the Rights Charter for the Ouse as prescribed for in the LDC Motion of 20th Feb 2023 and are delighted that the Council have included this here. Thank you.
- Seaford Town Council - STC are a major stakeholder in Seaford seafront. We have a Beach Users Group which contains stakeholders directly affected by water quality and access. STC are currently considering whether to proceed with other key stakeholders in the creation of a National Nature Reserve which would be centred on the chalk aquifer underneath the Seaford and wider area, which is vital to water supply and quality. We would welcome greater transparency on sewage dumping in rivers and seas and more dialogue with LDC on the work of the water champion.

Sustainable Community Wealth Building Do you agree with the councils goals:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	strongly agree		22.58%
2	agree		35.48%

Sustainable Community Wealth Building Do you agree with the councils goals:

3	neither agree or disagree		12.90%	4
4	disagree		3.23%	1
5	strongly disagree		3.23%	1
6	Other (please specify):		22.58%	7
			answered	31

Comment summary:

- “Overall, yes we agree, but feel it lacks ambition. Recognise there's a lot of crossovers to other areas here – reuse, repair etc into waste reduction, local green jobs need the demand from massive drive towards renewables and/or towards renaturing large areas of land – both should be pursued by requirements for carbon cutting and biodiversity gain. From this document it's hard to know how much all this inter-dependency is recognised but the council and during planning. Potential to promote or enable renew, repair and refurbish as well as reuse – diverts more from waste, could lead to green jobs and skills
Tapping into people's different skills – skill and knowledge sharing.
- At what level a circular economy- regional, local, neighbourhood?
- Strongly agree.
- Investment through municipal bonds and community shares
- Local loans and grant schemes to enable retrofit.
- Encourage local businesses.
- No net zero
- The council needs to stop privatising it's assets and invest in local economies and be less reliant on private enterprise.
- What does this mean? 'The council has enabled local re-use networks'. Not clear at all. 'Investment has been made into the local urban, coastal and rural economies increasing local employment opportunities and reducing income inequality'. By how much has local employment increased and how much has income inequality reduced?”

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Sustainable Community Wealth Building section?

- Ouse Valley Energy Services CIC (OVESCO) - Yes, to raise a bond or share offer and secure debt funding, to enable an additional 17MW of solar PV to be implemented by 2030 (earlier if grid connection allows).
- Friends of Lewes - To work with others to promote and protect the vitality of businesses in and around our High Street, preserve its range of buildings and businesses, and safeguard its community value in the face of commercial change and problematic traffic management.
- Seaford Environmental Alliance - Strategic goal: community resilience - local skill and knowledge sharing – building up community ties and networks.
- Ouse Valley Climate Action - Resilience building through bespoke support for community groups.
- Seaford Town Council - The Town Council favours working with local suppliers which is reflected in the Concessions Policy. Members recommended that Lewes District Council work more closely with Seaford Town Council on addressing the potential decline of the town, particularly further to the Town Centre Audit that LDC is undertaking with STC.

6. Which area of Lewes district does your organisation cover?

District wide - 8
 East Chiltington - 1
 Lewes town - 9
 Hamsey Parish - 1
 Westmeston - 1
 Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven - 1
 Havens - 2
 Seaford - 3
 Villages - 1
 The Ouse Valley from Barcombe to Seaford - 3