



Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Outcome 1: The built environment will be net zero and climate resilient.

Objective 1.1 Mass retrofit of existing buildings.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress to date
Access government funding to decarbonise private housing such as HUG2	Applications submitted either in partnership or standalone	£	High	Ongoing	Climate	<p>1200 letters to off-gas Rother properties based on DESNZ data 3663 postcards Camber & Rye 75 referrals across RDC/HBC/LDC and EBC 31 Whole House Surveys across RDC/HBC/LDC and EBC 14 costed schemes – 7 in RDC</p> <p>15/04/2024 - Report to April CCSG</p>
Fund energy efficiency measures in community assets through CIL, UKSPF	Carbon footprint reports and action plans for community assets produced. Interventions implemented.	£££	High	Ongoing	Climate, Regeneration, Planning	<p>Village Halls Energy Project was approved by full Council Sept '22 following £500k funding from CIL Climate Emergency Bonus Fund.</p> <p>In Jun '23 bespoke Decarbonisation Plans were issued to 39 participating halls. Pre-grant funding offers were made in Oct '23 to 34 halls for measures that would save an expected 2250+ Tonnes CO2e over 25 years.</p> <p>At 16/04/2024, 6 halls have completed works using VHEP grants to a total of £16.5k. A further 10 halls have signed Grant Funding Agreements with RDC to the value of £45K. 10 halls have grants approved in principle, with GFAs pending, to the value of £142.8K. Completing all projects will save an estimated 1,115 Tonnes of CO2e.</p> <p>Awarded REPF funding to two community decarbonisation projects – Sedlescombe Sports Pavilion and Robertsbridge Club. £70,000 remains available – rolling grant window until funds are spent.</p>
Use Environmental Health enforcement mechanisms to improve private	Minimum of 5 homes per year improved because of licensing or	£	Medium	Ongoing	Environmental Health	<p>19/02/24 7 homes improved due to licensing or statutory notices being served since April '23</p>

sector rented accommodation	statutory notices being served					
Work with Parish and Town Councils and other Community groups to engage and educate residents	Minimum of five parish and town councils supported to create climate action plans per year	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate	<p>At Oct '23, 8 T&PCs have declared a climate emergency (24%) and at least 3 more are considering doing so.</p> <p>19/02/24 CSO shared the RDC Climate Strategy with P&TCs in Jan '24 and offered to support any councils who wish to make a declaration or action plan.</p> <p>CSO attended the Crowhurst Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group in Jan '24</p> <p>CSO to present at the Bodiam Annual Parish Meeting – date confirmed 2nd May</p> <p>CSO to present at the Northiam Annual Parish Meeting – date confirmed 18th April</p> <p>18/03/24 CSO to present at Crowhurst Parish Meeting</p> <p>Brede Parish Council has not made a declaration but has agreed to set up a Climate Action Working Group.</p>
Support Retrofit Skills Partnership	Convene or actively participate in a local retrofit skills partnership	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate, Regeneration	<p>ESCC held a Retrofit Skills workshop in Jun '23. RDC Climate Strategy Officer and Housing Needs Manager attended. ESCC has received funding from DESNZ to develop a Retrofit Skills Strategy for the county. RDC has supported the development of this strategy through the East Sussex Housing Partnership Board.</p> <p>19/02/24 DESNZ have approved ESCC's Retrofit Skills Plan for East Sussex and ESCC has started the pilot projects. Public Health is planning to recruit a Retrofit Skills Partnership and Programme Manager to lead this work. RDC is continuing to support this through the ES Housing Partnership Board, the Energy Partnership Board and the Climate Officer network.</p> <p>Rother Skills Audit is ongoing – Report due May '24. Retrofit and Green Skills form a part of this audit.</p>

						<p>18/03/24 RDC will be hosting a Retrofit Awareness Course, funded by ESCC as part of the Retrofit Skills Strategy. The course will be delivered by East Sussex College and has been offered to Housing, Regen, Estates, Planning and Climate Officers at RDC.</p> <p>Retrofit Awareness Course held on 16/04/2024</p>
Run a series of community engagement events to raise awareness and demystify retrofitting	Host one retrofitting awareness event per year	££	Low	Ongoing	Climate	19/02/24 CSO is collating a list of planned events to attend.
Retrofit Rother District Council operational assets to EPC C or above	Operational assets retrofitted to EPC C	£££	High	Ongoing	Estates	<p>Existing ratings of these assets are yet to be reviewed.</p> <p>An Interim Strategic Assets & Estates Manager has been recruited and has begun developing the Strategic Assets Management Plan.</p>
Train Energy Champions to work with communities	10 Energy Champions trained	££	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate	<p>Climate Strategy Officer commissioned the training of a cohort of Energy Champions in Jul '23.</p> <p>19/02/24 Energise Sussex Coast has trained five Energy Champions in Rother since July '23. There are three training sessions individuals must attend to become an Energy Champion. Two more training opportunities are in development for 2024. One of these is likely to be in the Rye area, the other is TBC.</p>
Fund businesses' decarbonisation plans with capital grants for net zero infrastructure	50 businesses supported to report their carbon footprint and create carbon reduction action plans	£££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Regeneration	<p>19/02/24 CSO met with the Rye Chamber of Commerce to discuss their sustainability ambitions. CSO to present at March Chamber meeting.</p> <p>Finalising agreement to work with Clean Growth UK to deliver Net Zero 360 to 50 businesses in Rother and associated grant scheme. Project due to commence April '24</p> <p>18/03/24 – CSO was the Guest Speaker at the Rye Chamber of Commerce Spring Meeting. CSO gave a presentation on the RDC Climate Strategy and talked about the plans to engage businesses with the Clean Growth UK project.</p> <p>15/04/2024 - Report to April CCSG</p>

Retrofit Rother District Council-owned accommodation to EPC C or above	All RDC owned accommodation rated EPC C or above	££	Medium	25/26	Housing	Report to Jan '24 CCSG by Housing Solutions Manager.
New Local Plan - refurbishment energy standards set through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	Local Plan Review – Position Statement March 2024
New Local Plan - reuse of buildings rather than demolition encouraged and supported through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
Objective 1.2 New buildings are net zero or carbon negative.						
Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Require Council-led developments to meet best practice net zero standards	Introduce Council-led Development Policy	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration, Policy & Projects	19/02/24 Following Jan '24 CCSG discussion CSO has investigated the Carbon and Co-Benefits Decision Support Tool as an option to replace an interim policy. The tool has been embedded in the Programme Management Framework and officer training will begin in March.
New Local Plan - best practice net zero standards for new buildings to be set through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.



Transport Outcome 2: The need to travel will be reduced, those that do so will be on foot, bike, public transport, or EV.

2.1 Sustainable forms of transport are supported through the planning system.						
Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Work with Local Transport Authority and Transport for the Southeast to ensure Rother's interests are met	Actively participate in partnership, corporate comms	£	High	Ongoing	Climate, Planning Policy	18/03/24 – RDC formally responded to LTP4. Response was prepared by the Planning Policy Manager with support from CSO.

Local Plan - Development Strategy to plan spatially to reduce reliance on personal vehicles through town and village networks and clusters	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
Local Plan - Live Well Locally concept to be an Overall Priority, informing the spatial strategy, site selection and development design.	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Climate, Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.

Objective 2.2 Facilitate the transition to low/ zero carbon vehicles.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Install EV charging infrastructure in RDC carparks	Six RDC car parks across the District with EV chargers installed	£	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Policy & Projects, Neighbourhood Services, Climate, Estates	In Feb '22 Council approved the installation of EVCPs at nil capital cost. An update to cabinet in Mar '23 presented the outcome of feasibility studies, preliminary site plans and funding, including plans to apply to ORCS . ORCS 2023/24 opened Oct '23. ORCS application submitted Dec '23, revised, for 22 double-headed EVCPs in 6 car parks. £165k funding has been awarded. Expected project delivery by March 2025.
Encourage businesses to install EV charging	10 businesses installed EV charging on-site through Shared Prosperity Funding	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration, Climate	19/02/24 Rural Business Grant Programme is open to applicants Rural Business Grants Programme – Rother District Council Rural Business Grants Programme East Sussex County Council
Support businesses to switch to LZC fleet	5 businesses transitioned to Low/Zero Carbon fleet	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration, Climate	19/02/24 Rural Business Grant Programme is open to applicants Rural Business Grants Programme – Rother District Council Rural Business Grants Programme East Sussex County Council

Objective 2.3 A programme of activities to promote active travel across the district.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
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Promote behaviour change to encourage active travel through corporate communications	Internal and External RDC Comms, participation in events	£	Medium	Ongoing	Sports, Climate	<p>Inaugural staff commuter survey conducted Mar '23. Findings were reported to CMT and shared on the Staff Notice Board.</p> <p>In Oct '23 a series of Sustainable Travel posts were shared on the Staff Notice Board by the Green Team, and Flexi bus and Govt £2 bus fare cap have been promoted via RDC comms channels.</p>
Climate Awareness Training introduced for all RDC staff	RDC Certified as Gold Level Carbon Literate Organisation	££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate	<p>In Sept '23 the Climate Strategy Officer and Climate Projects Officer delivered the first in-house Carbon Literacy Training to 8 Officers, bringing the total number to have completed this training to 30.</p> <p>CMT have since approved a programme to roll out Carbon Literacy training to all staff, and adopt it into the induction package as mandatory training for new starters.</p> <p>Following training on 27th and 28th Feb, 53 officers have now completed Carbon Literacy Training. A further 50 officers are booked onto future courses.</p> <p>Upcoming officer training dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th & 13th June • 18th & 19th September • (November – TBC in line with CLAD) <p>Member training offered for March did not achieve the minimum attendees. Alternative dates to be considered.</p> <p>15/04/2024 - RDC application to become a Silver Carbon Literate Organisation is in progress. CSO has been certified as a Carbon Literate Facilitator.</p>



Resource Consumption & Waste Outcome 3: The district will produce less waste and a thriving circular economy.

Objective 3.1 Reduced consumption of resources and waste.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
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RDC Scope 1&2 emissions reduced by 50% year-on-year from 19/20 baseline	Reduce RDC Scope 1&2 emissions by 50% year-on-year from 19/20 baseline	£££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate	In Progress 18/03/24 – 23/24 Emissions to be reported in September '24.
Promote behaviour change to reduce waste through corporate communications	Internal and External RDC Comms, participation in events	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate	In Dec '23 the Green Team conducted a waste audit, with recommendations to adopt glass and soft-plastics recycling approved by SLT. Initiatives to reduce paper and single-use plastics for food and drink are planned by the Green Team in 2024/25.
Introduce a decision-making tool that includes carbon impacts	Decision-making tool adopted by the Council	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Policy & Projects	19/02/24 SLT has approved the adoption of the Carbon and Co-Benefits Support Tool for all Decision reports. To be implemented from May '24 following Officer and Member training. 18/03/24 – Members Briefing on the Carbon and Co-Benefits Tool scheduled for 4 th April. Two Officer training sessions have also been scheduled for April. 15/04/24 - Member Briefing held on 05/04/24 and first officer training held on 16/04/24
Incorporating sustainable food principles in council catering and at Council-run events where possible	Policy Introduced	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Policy & Projects	To Start
Eliminate single-use plates and cutlery from council catering	Policy for reusable plates and cutlery introduced	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Policy & Projects, Facilities	To Start
Improve procurement policies for operational resources	Policy Introduced	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Policy & Projects	

						Climate Projects Officer sits on ESPH working group to develop a new Sustainable Procurement Policy. Awaiting first draft from ESPH, expected Spring '24.
New Local Plan - seek reuse and recycling of construction materials and waste	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
New Local Plan - water resources minimised. Rain & grey water recycling required through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
New Local Plan - require space for food-growing in new development through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
Objective 3.2 Increased repair, reuse and recycling of goods and materials.						
Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Fund activities through the Council's RRR Grants Scheme to reduce consumption and increase repair, re-use and recycling	Rother Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Grant to fund initiatives	££	Medium	Ongoing	Policy & Projects	19/02/24 RRRR grants have been awarded to: Bexhill Environmental Group - £364 towards a new brush cutter Community Compost Solutions - £256 Community Composting Education and Awareness Project Hunter Gatherers - £1,000 Water Saving at Hoads Wood Project The Studio Rye - £453 towards the Gardening Club Project
Work in partnership with local voluntary and community groups to reduce food waste	Participation in formal partnership with terms of reference	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate, Partner Organisations	19/02/24 Rural Community Spaces Improvement Grant for £10,000 funded by REPF awarded to Peasmarsh Parish Council to create a community allotment. RVA is taking on the Rother Food Partnership. CSO to attend the first meeting. 18/03/24 – First meeting of the Rother Food Partnership was attended by the CSO. A separate meeting has also taken place between CSO and Food Partnership Co-ordinator. Launch event

						scheduled for 22 nd April – CSO to present on RDC Climate Strategy, particularly the Resource Consumption and Waste theme and how it relates to the Food Partnership.
Promote Office Swap Shop and related activities	Internal RDC Comms, participation in events	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate	A ‘staff marketplace’ Teams Channel has been created to encourage officers to offer, request and share resources before buying new. This can be used for both work-related and personal items.
Introduce food waste collection from operational buildings	Food waste from operational buildings is recycled	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Facilities, Policy & Projects	Following the Green Team Waste Audit in December 2023, no local provision for food waste collections could be found.
Introduce glass collection from operational buildings	Glass waste from operational buildings is recycled	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Facilities, Policy & Projects	Following the Green Team Waste Audit, recommendations to introduce a glass recycling collection and snack packaging recycling collections have been approved by SLT.



Biodiversity and Land Use

Outcome 4: Nature will be in recovery across the district.

Objective 4.1 Halt land and marine species decline.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Work in partnership with relevant organisations to improve the health of the water environments in the district	Convene or actively participate in a partnership to improve the health of the water environments in the district	££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate, Partner Organisations	RDC is a formal partner in the Rother and Romney Catchment Partnership and the Cuckmere and Pevensy Catchment Partnership. The Climate Strategy Officer represents RDC at regular Partnership meetings. 18/03/24 – CSO attended the Comb Valley Catchment Sub—Group meeting on 13 th March. Meeting included a strategy workshop and an update on the carp removal.
Introduce conditions to new lease agreements	All new lease agreements from 2024/25 have a Nature Recovery clause	£	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Estates	Strategic Assets & Estates Manager came into post Jan '24, responsible for developing a Strategic Assets Management Plan. 19/02/24: Recruitment is again underway for the Strategic Assets & Estates Manager post.

Eliminate use of pesticides, herbicides, and peat in council grounds maintenance	Policy Introduced	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Parks, Policy & Projects	18/03/24 –A report on proposals to start this project has been requested from the Neighbourhood Services HoS. NS HoS has agreed to bring the report to a future meeting.
Objective 4.2 Increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration.						
Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Deliver on Bexhill Tree Planting Strategy	KPIs from Bexhill Tree Planting Strategy are met	££	Medium	Ongoing	Parks, Climate, Partner Organisations	Over 200 trees were planted on Bexhill streets in Spring 2023 , with around 100 more street trees due to be planted in Autumn / Winter 2023. Coronation Living Heritage Fund will deliver a micro wood and possibly Community Orchards in Bexhill by March 2025. Subject to further checks, the proposed site for the Bexhill Micro Wood is Seabourne Road Recreation Ground, Pebsham. Coronation Community Orchard grants opened for applications on 1st April 2024.
Work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to carry out biodiversity audits and create Management Plans to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration in parks and open spaces	50% of Town and Parish Councils enhancing their assets for biodiversity and carbon sequestration	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate, Partner Organisations	T&PCs are to be engaged with Coronation Living Heritage Fund delivery for urban micro woods and Community Orchards grants. 19/02/24 CSO has advised Northiam Parish Council on meeting the Biodiversity Duty. CSO has agreed to attend the first meeting of the Northiam Biodiversity Working Group. 18/03/24 CSO attended the initial meeting of the Northiam Biodiversity Group. Key Stakeholders were brought together to discuss the Biodiversity Duty. Northiam PC are looking to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Village.
Designate a proportion of the RDC estate to 'wilding' and nature recovery	10% of RDC estate designated to 'wilding'	£	Medium	Ongoing	Estates, Parks, Climate	Strategic Assets & Estates Manager came into post Jan '24, responsible for developing a Strategic Assets Management Plan. 19/02/24: Recruitment is again underway for the Strategic Assets & Estates Manager post.

Audit RDC green assets to provide a baseline for biodiversity	Biodiversity Audit Report	££	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Climate	<p>Provider began biodiversity audit on 23 rural RDC sites in May '23, reports expected Nov '23. Site surveys completed Sept '23.</p> <p>Reports now expected Mar '24.</p> <p>18/03/24 – 7 reports have been received. Once accessibility issues have been fixed, these will go on the RDC webpages and the link shared with CCSG Members.</p> <p>15/04/24 - 9 reports have now been received</p>
Develop District-wide Tree Strategy	Tree Strategy adopted by Council	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Planning, Parks	To Start
Adopt the county-wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Climate and Planning Policy	<p>RDC are a Supporting Authority on the LNRS development. The Planning Policy Manager is representing RDC in the working group.</p> <p>18/03/24 - Sussex Nature Recovery Sussex Nature Recovery website launched</p>
New Local Plan have regard to the LNRS in decision-making through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning	See the Position Statement above.
New Local Plan - Require 20% Biodiversity Net Gain through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning	See the Position Statement above.
New Local Plan - use Natural England standards and guidelines to improve green infrastructure	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.



Energy Generation Outcome 5: Renewable energy will be produced locally.

Objective 5.1 Solar PV on all suitable roof spaces.

Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Participate in collective buying schemes such as Solar Together	Collective buying scheme run annually	£	High	Ongoing	Climate	The contract with the current provider has ended and options for future schemes are being reviewed, coordinated by lead authority WSCC.
Support local community renewable energy creation	Formal partnership with terms of reference and corporate comms	£	High	Ongoing	Planning, Climate	MOU signed with Energise Sussex Coast. 4 Village Halls have accepted VHEP grant offers towards solar, covering a minimum of 50% of costs. The remainder will be covered by Energise Sussex Coast, or match-funded to buy panels outright.
Install Solar PV on RDC commercial assets	Review of commercial assets for solar potential. Commercial solar business project established.	££	High	Ongoing	Estates, Climate	In Progress
Encourage businesses to install Solar PV	5 businesses installing solar PV through grant funding	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration, Climate	19/02/24 Rural Business Grant Programme is open to applicants Rural Business Grants Programme – Rother District Council Rural Business Grants Programme East Sussex County Council
Explore options for solar carports in RDC carparks	Report on solar carport potential of RDC car parks	££	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Climate, Policy & Projects, Neighbourhood Services, Estates	To Start
New Local Plan - support community energy through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
Objective 5.2 Support renewable energy generation.						
Action	KPI	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead Team(s)	Progress
Carry out heat demand mapping	Heat mapping report produced	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate	19/02/24 Spec has been written in partnership with ESCC, WDC, EBC and LDC. Currently out to procurement.

						18/03/24 – Procurement is ongoing.
Encourage businesses to install renewables	5 businesses received funding for renewable installations	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration, Climate	19/02/24 Rural Business Grant Programme is open to applicants Rural Business Grants Programme – Rother District Council Rural Business Grants Programme East Sussex County Council 15/04/24 Report to April CCSG
New Local Plan - spatially plan for renewable energy through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
New Local Plan - support and require connection to district heat networks through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy	See the Position Statement above.
Cost: £ - £1,000 - £10,000 ££ - £10,000 - £100,000 £££ - £100,000+						
Carbon impact (tCO2e): Low - 10s Medium - 100s High - 1000s						