East Lothian Council's
Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE TOGETHER

> *"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."*
>
> John Muir 1838–1914, pioneer of nature conservation,
> born in Dunbar and inspired by its natural environment

Executive Summary
East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

Introduction

There is a global climate emergency. The evidence is irrefutable and the science is clear. Warnings have been issued about the damage human beings are causing to the planet and how that damage has accelerated over the past 50 years. The impacts of climate change are having a serious effect on our communities. We believe that it's not too late for us to turn things around but to do so requires transformative change and action now.

In August 2019, East Lothian Council's Elected Members unanimously agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. The Council resolved to take action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county.

Key Aims of the Strategy

This Climate Change Strategy sets out the Council's vision and overall aims for a **Net Zero Council and a Carbon Neutral East Lothian**. It sets out what we will do over the next 5 years towards achieving these overall aims, and the specific targets and actions which will help progress towards achieving net zero.

This Climate Change Strategy covers two major aspects of climate change:

- **Climate Change Mitigation**: this section of the strategy sets out how we will reduce our emissions to reach Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable and by 2045, and help to mitigate against further global temperature rise; and
- **Climate Change Adaptation**: climate change is already impacting upon us, and we set out how we will adapt to and prepare for future changes in our climate. This will help to reduce inequalities, and enable our communities and businesses to be more resilient for the future.

East Lothian Council's Vision and Overall Aims of this strategy for responding to the Climate Emergency and tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation in East Lothian are:

East Lothian Council will take urgent action to make all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and will lobby, support and work with government, all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment.

We will also work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county, enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

This Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian Council will work in partnership with our local communities, businesses, organisations and individuals to tackle climate change. The Council will also work with its partners in the East Lothian Partnership to help achieve a reduction in carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and equality across East Lothian.

This strategy will embed the principles of Climate Justice into East Lothian Council's Climate Emergency response, to ensure that those most vulnerable in our society, including those in

poverty who are already at a socio-economic disadvantage, will not be disproportionately adversely affected by the effects of climate change.

The strategy will contribute to raising awareness of climate change challenges in East Lothian. It also sets out the priorities and actions for the Council and the wider East Lothian community to prepare for and reduce the impacts of climate change.

The strategy has been informed and shaped by feedback and information gathered from the public during an initial consultation on the development of the strategy, and a formal public consultation on our Draft Climate Change Strategy. It was also developed with input from the Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group and key stakeholder organisations. This informed the identification of the key issues and challenges, and the setting of the outcomes, aims and actions for the strategy.

We have also taken into account:
- The international, national and local policy context;
- East Lothian's geographical, spatial, population and land use context;
- National and East Lothian emissions reduction and climate change mitigation context; and
- National and East Lothian climate projections and climate change adaptation context

Based on this context and to address the need to take action to achieve a net zero Council, a carbon neutral East Lothian and prepare for climate change impacts, this strategy identifies the following key **Outcomes**:

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council

> *East Lothian Council will reduce its overall carbon emissions from the Council's own estate and operations over the 5 year period of the Climate Change Strategy to contribute towards making all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonable practicable or in any case by 2045*

Key Priority Area 1: Leadership and Governance
Key Priority Area 2: Embedding Sustainability and ensuring a Just Transition
Key Priority Area 3: Funding and Resources
Key Priority Area 4: Reduce Emissions across the Council's Buildings and Services
Key Priority Area 5: Improve Resource Efficiency and Sustainability
Key Priority Area 6: Reduce Emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel
Key Priority Area 7: Sustainable Procurement
Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People
Key Priority Area 9: Climate Adaptation: A Resilient Council

Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality

> *Ensure that East Lothian has well-connected, healthy, active communities with improved air quality, where active travel and sustainable transport modes are the norm to access local services and amenities*

Key Priority Area 1: Sustainable Transport
Key Priority Area 2: Active Travel
Key Priority Area 3: Improving Air Quality

Key Priority Area 4: Climate Adaptation: Resilient Transport Networks and Infrastructure

Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate

> *East Lothian's homes and buildings will be Net Zero and energy efficient, enabling us to achieve Fuel Poverty targets, will use low carbon and renewable heat and energy sources, and will be adapted for future climate change impacts*

Key Priority Area 1: Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings
Key Priority Area 2: Opportunities for Sustainable Energy and Heat
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Buildings

Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

> *We will work towards a Zero Waste and Sustainable East Lothian, a place of social equity underpinned by sustainability, promoting the Circular Economy, ensuring the next generation has the resources they need to thrive*

Key Priority Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling
Key Priority Area 2: Circular Economy
Key Priority Area 3: Reducing Litter and Plastic Waste

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

> *East Lothian will have Scotland's most sustainable and digitally connected local economy, with thriving, low carbon and sustainable businesses and training opportunities, at the heart of vibrant local communities, contributing towards a sustainable, fair and equitable East Lothian*

Key Priority Area 1: Businesses and the Local Economy
Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Businesses

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral

> *East Lothian will have healthy, diverse natural ecosystems and greenspaces that support biodiversity and the wellbeing of our communities, functioning to off-set carbon emissions; a key force in achieving a Carbon Neutral East Lothian and adapting to climate change, and resilient to changes in climatic conditions*

Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity
Key Priority Area 2: Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment

Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change

- *East Lothian will be a place which supports and encourages the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and reduces inequalities in our communities, by promoting and raising awareness of active and sustainable travel, green and blue networks, local food growing, outdoor play, local amenities, low carbon and renewable energy and zero waste; where people are supported to reduce their own carbon footprint;*

- *East Lothian's communities will be prepared for and adapted to the effects of climate change, and resilient to further changes in the future*

Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking
Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments
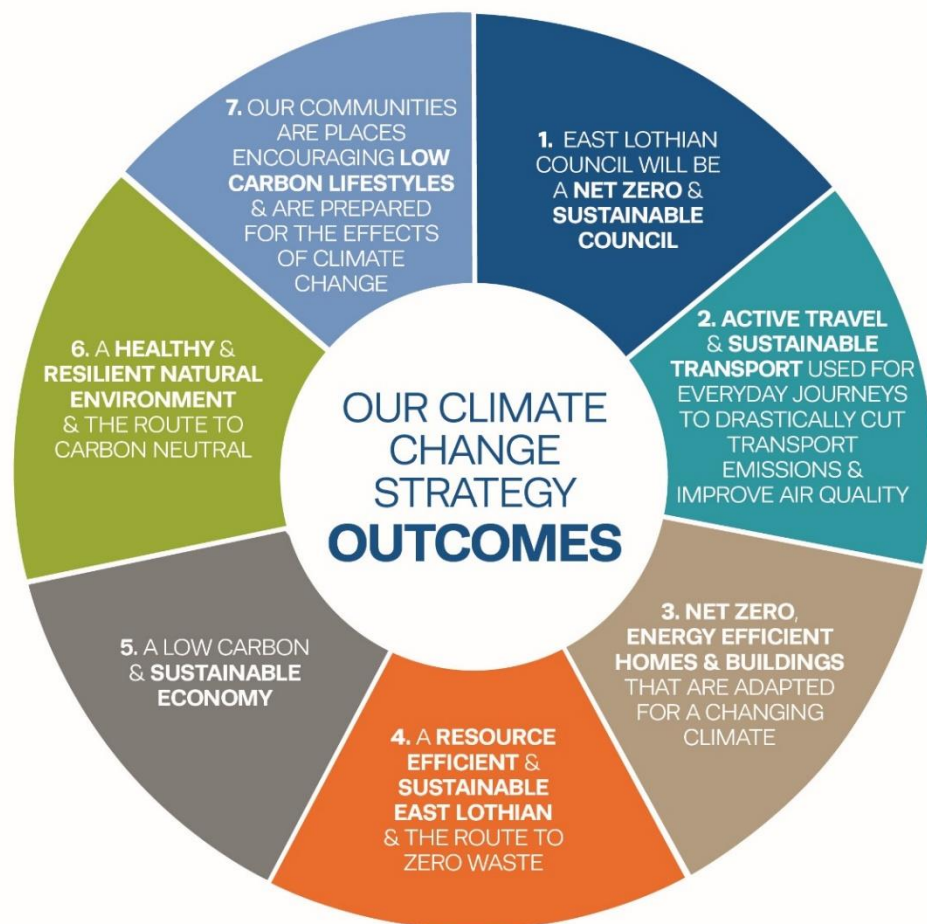Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing
Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement
Key Priority Area 5: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Communities

Going Forward

East Lothian Council has made huge progress in respect of emissions reduction, year on year, despite significant population growth. In 2018/19, our emissions fell by **12.8%** from the previous year to 15,007 tCO_2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). Since our first year of statutory Climate Change Reporting in 2014/15 our total carbon emissions have fallen by **28%**, and measured from our baseline of 44,034 tCO_2e in 2007/08, **our total emissions have already reduced by 66%.**

However, it will become more and more challenging to meet the Scottish Government's net zero target unless further guidance and legislative changes are in place. It is noted that Climate Change is a rapidly moving area of national legislation and policy and the Council will work closely with the Scottish Government to

- Ensure measures and resources are in place for existing homes and buildings to be zero carbon;
- Ensure mitigation is embedded in planning and infrastructure legislation;
- Ensure Local Authorities have the resources and powers to lead on climate change mitigation and adaptation in their local areas.

In the meantime the Council will continue to progress towards reducing its overall carbon emissions through its own policies and actions to tackle the Climate Emergency locally. It is intended that this strategy will be regularly reviewed to incorporate the changing legislative framework, with an annual update to Cabinet.

The **Action Plan** underpins these outcomes, seeks to deliver actions and target resources over the 5-year period of the strategy, and will be reviewed and updated annually.

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1. Introduction: Tackling the Global Climate Emergency

1.1 What is Climate Change?

The evidence is irrefutable and the science is clear that the Earth's climate is changing because of emissions of 'greenhouse gases' resulting from human activity. The majority of emissions derive from our demand for energy. The largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is carbon dioxide (CO_2), which is emitted when fossil fuels are burnt to meet those energy demands. Increasing quantities of carbon dioxide contribute to the 'greenhouse effect', causing global temperature rise and changes to the Earth's climate. We believe that it's not too late for us to turn things around but to do so requires transformative change and action now.

> **Global warming**
> Increased levels of **'greenhouse gases'** building up in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapour and methane, prevent heat escaping from the Earth into space.
> This intensifies the so-called **'greenhouse effect'**, causing global temperatures to rise, resulting in climate change and instability.

1.2 The Global Climate Emergency

Climate change impacts upon all aspects of life, increasing risks to the natural environment, food security, water availability, infrastructure and human health. In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that global temperature rise must be kept to under 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels to minimise catastrophic global impacts on society, human health and wellbeing, the economy, world food production and the natural environment. In response to this, governments and regional governments around the world have declared a 'Climate Emergency'. Scotland's First Minister declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019.

1.3 East Lothian Council's Declaration of Climate Emergency

On 27th August 2019, East Lothian Council's Elected Members unanimously agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. The Council resolved to take action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to engage, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment. East Lothian Council will also commit to work with its communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county as well as enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments.

1.4 Ecological Emergency

Not only are we facing a climate emergency but we are also facing an Ecological Emergency. Human-induced impacts on natural habitats and biodiversity have already caused the extinction of numerous species and damage to and destruction of ecosystems around the world. Climate change is exacerbating these impacts. We need to act now to protect our natural environment and biodiversity for future generations. The solutions to tackling climate change will also reduce biodiversity loss; indeed nature can help us to offset carbon emissions and help us to solve the climate crisis.

1.5 Tackling the Climate Emergency

This Climate Change Strategy sets out East Lothian Council's vision and overall aims for a Net Zero Council and a Carbon Neutral East Lothian. However, it should be noted that Climate Change is a rapidly moving area of national legislation and policy,

The Council responded to the recent Scottish Government consultation on the Role of Public Bodies in tackling Climate Change setting out the need for the Scottish Government to commit the resources, tools and powers to enable local authorities to fundamentally address the transformational changes required. This requires policy and legislative change at national level. The Council will continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Government to secure the resources, tools and powers to tackle the Climate Emergency, and to ensure the engagement and compliance of others in achieving this.

In the meantime the Council will continue to progress towards reducing its overall carbon emissions through its own policies and actions to tackle the Climate Emergency locally. It is intended that this strategy will be regularly reviewed to incorporate the changing legislative framework, with an annual update to Cabinet.

1.6 The Purpose of the Strategy

This Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian Council will tackle climate change, and how it will work in partnership with our local communities, businesses, organisations and individuals to ensure that East Lothian can play its full part in the national and international efforts to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Council will also work with its partners in the East Lothian Partnership to help achieve a reduction in carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and equality, across East Lothian.

Climate change is anticipated to disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable in our society. This strategy will embed the principles of Climate Justice into East Lothian Council's Climate Emergency response, to ensure that those most vulnerable in our society, including those in poverty who are already at a socio-economic disadvantage, will not be disproportionately adversely affected by the effects of climate change.

The Strategy will contribute to raising awareness of climate change challenges in East Lothian. It also sets out the priorities and actions for the Council and the wider East Lothian community to prepare for and reduce the impacts of climate change and the inequalities that can result, and promote resilient communities.

The Strategy will also contribute to:
- Reducing Inequalities
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Contributing to a Thriving Local Economy
- Education, Awareness-raising and Behaviour Change
- Ensuring Cost-effective Action

The Strategy sets out a **Vision**, targeted **Outcomes** and **Actions** for climate change mitigation and adaptation across East Lothian over a five year period, supporting national and local priority outcomes, and leading to long-term leadership and governance.

The **Action Plan** seeks to deliver local actions and target resources over the five-year period of the Strategy.

Monitoring & Evaluation: The targets and action plan will be reviewed and updated annually to Cabinet.

1.7 Vision and Overall Aims of East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy

The Vision and Overall Aims of East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy are:

> East Lothian Council will take urgent action to make all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and will lobby, support and work with government, all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment.
> We will also work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county, enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

1.8 Aims of East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy

East Lothian Council believes that it's not too late for us to turn things around but to do so will require transformative change and action now. We all have to play our part to deliver national and international commitments to reduce the impacts of climate change. The Council has produced this Climate Change Strategy to address the following Aims:

1. To take action to make all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to engage, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment;

2. To set out a coordinated approach, framework, outcomes, priorities and action plan for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation across East Lothian;

3. To contribute to the development of a sustainable, resource efficient and equitable East Lothian, with a thriving low carbon economy, a healthy and diverse natural environment, and flourishing low carbon communities that are resilient to the effects of future climate change;

4. To prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change, and adapt to future predicted changes in our climate locally.

This Climate Change Strategy covers these two major aspects of climate change:

- **Climate Change Mitigation**: this section of the strategy sets out how we will reduce our emissions to reach Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable and by 2045, and help to mitigate against further global temperature rise; and

- **Climate Change Adaptation**: climate change is already impacting upon us, and we set out how we will adapt to and prepare for future changes in our climate. This will help to reduce inequalities, and enable our communities and businesses to be more resilient for the future.

> **Climate Change <u>Mitigation</u>** means the actions we can all take to reduce our carbon emissions, which will help to reduce global warming and the serious effects this will have on the environment, society and the economy.
>
> **Climate Change <u>Adaptation</u>** is how our communities can adapt to extreme weather events and a climate that is already changing as a result of global warming. This will help to reduce inequalities, and enable our communities to be more resilient for the future.

1.9 Outcomes of this 5 year Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

Over the first 5 years of this Climate Change Strategy, our key priority areas for action to contribute to our overall vision are as follows:

East Lothian Council will work in partnership to achieve the following Outcomes over the 5 year period of this strategy:

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council
Key Priority Area 1: Leadership and Governance
Key Priority Area 2: Embedding Sustainability and ensuring a Just Transition
Key Priority Area 3: Funding and Resources
Key Priority Area 4: Reduce Emissions across the Council's Buildings and Services
Key Priority Area 5: Improve Resource Efficiency and Sustainability
Key Priority Area 6: Reduce Emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel
Key Priority Area 7: Sustainable Procurement
Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People
Key Priority Area 9: Climate Adaptation: A Resilient Council

Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality
Key Priority Area 1: Sustainable Transport
Key Priority Area 2: Active Travel
Key Priority Area 3: Improving Air Quality
Key Priority Area 4: Climate Adaptation: Resilient Transport Networks and Infrastructure

Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate
Key Priority Area 1: Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings
Key Priority Area 2: Opportunities for Sustainable Energy and Heat
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Buildings

Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

Key Priority Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling
Key Priority Area 2: Circular Economy
Key Priority Area 3: Reducing Litter and Plastic Waste

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Key Priority Area 1: Businesses and the Local Economy
Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Businesses

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral

Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity
Key Priority Area 2: Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment

Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change

Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking
Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments
Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing
Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement
Key Priority Area 5: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Communities

2. Development of the Strategy

The Strategy was informed by information gathered from the public during an initial consultation in 2018 to inform the development of the Strategy. It was also developed in partnership with the Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group, and was informed by engagement with East Lothian Council staff across Council Service Areas, key stakeholder organisations, and young people; and by impact assessments, research and data analysis. A public consultation on a Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy was held from May to July 2019.

2.1 Public Consultation and Engagement

East Lothian Council is committed to consulting and engaging with as wide a range of local people as possible to ensure we deliver in the most effective way to capture local issues and the aspirations of our communities.

Awareness-raising and public engagement were key aspects of the development of this Strategy, as the Council will be able to achieve more by working in partnership with communities, organisations, businesses and individuals.

To inform the preparation of the strategy, a wide range of consultation and engagement took place at an early stage. A number of views were obtained through this process which were considered in relation to the preparation of the Draft Strategy.

Figure 1: Drop-in event during the initial public consultation on developing the Climate Change Strategy

A Draft Climate Change Strategy was prepared on the basis of this consultation and engagement. A further 8-week formal public consultation on the Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy took place between 27th May and 22nd July 2019. 160 responses were received, many extremely detailed.

In conjunction, a survey for children and young people on 'Tackling Climate Change: what should we do here in East Lothian?' was held, and 116 responses were received from children and young people highlighting their priorities for East Lothian.

Details of the public consultation process are given in the Consultation and Engagement document (Supporting Document 1). Responses received to the formal consultation on the Draft Strategy are categorised in Supporting Document 1, with responses to the key points provided by East Lothian Council Officers from the relevant Service Areas.

2.2 Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group

The Council's Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group (CCPMG) oversees the Council's proposals and measures to reduce its carbon emissions and respond to climate change. The role and remit of the CCPMG is set out in Appendix 1. The CCPMG plays an important role in driving and co-ordinating the work of the Council to meet key objectives under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Emission Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 and ensures compliance with the Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties. The CCPMG will monitor and evaluate implementation of the Strategy and ensure links with other key strategic planning structures as appropriate.

2.3 Key Stakeholder Organisations

Working in partnership with other organisations and developing a network will increase the capacity of the Council, and the wider East Lothian community, to mitigate against and adapt to climate change, and will strengthen our key commitments to tackle climate change. Several local organisations have already successfully implemented local projects and initiatives that reduce carbon emissions, encourage a low carbon lifestyle and a low carbon, circular economy, improve sustainability, and assist adaptation to climate change.

The Council will continue to work with our partners in the East Lothian Partnership to emphasise the need for us all to work in partnership and align our policies to reduce emissions, mitigate against and adapt to climate change across East Lothian.

2.4 Impact Assessments

Research has been undertaken to understand the potential impacts of the Climate Change Strategy on equalities and the environment. The Strategy has been through an Integrated Impact Assessment process and Strategic Environmental Assessment Pre-Screening. These are set out in Supporting Documents 2 and 3.

- **Integrated Impact Assessment** (Supporting Document 2): The Climate Change Strategy has been through the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process, which seeks to identify any impacts of strategies or policies on Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability, and identify how these will be addressed and mitigated.
  - o The IIA process identified positive potential impacts on Equalities, through addressing fuel poverty and climate related impacts on our communities, which would otherwise disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our society: 'Climate Justice' is about tackling these issues and reducing these inequalities.
  - o Positive impacts were also identified in respect of the environment and sustainability through measures identified to mitigate against climate change.
  - o Following the public consultation on the Draft Strategy, the IIA was updated to incorporate additional information highlighted during the consultation.

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment Pre-Screening** (Supporting Document 3): The Draft Climate Change Strategy has been through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pre-Screening process. The Pre-Screening Notification was submitted to the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway and no concerns were raised by the SEA Consultation Authorities.

2.5 Research and Data Analysis

Building knowledge through research, data collection and monitoring is key to understanding the issues and opportunities. By learning from other successful initiatives, promoting education, awareness-raising and training, and working in partnership, the Council and local communities, businesses, organisations and individual householders will be better equipped to take action.

The following areas of research were undertaken to inform the Strategy:

- The policy and legal drivers for mitigating against and adapting to climate change;
- Identifying and working with key stakeholders to identify climate change mitigation and adaptation measures already underway, and the opportunities for developing and extending these;
- Identifying baseline levels and researching measures to further reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's assets and processes;
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change, both past trends and future projections for East Lothian, on our communities, assets, services and priorities, and the measures necessary to reduce these impacts.

3. International, National and Local Policy Context

3.1 International Context: The Global Climate Emergency and Reducing Global Warming
The threats arising from climate change have been recognised around the world for decades, but only in recent years has the international community come together with legally binding commitments to reduce global temperature rise.

- **The Paris Agreement:** The international climate conference (COP21) held in Paris in December 2015 was a significant milestone. 195 countries including the UK signed up to the world's first legally binding global climate deal, known as the Paris Agreement[1], which set out a global action plan to keep global temperature rise to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, aiming to keep the rise to below 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement set ambitious targets for these countries to reduce their carbon emissions and support developing countries towards a lower carbon future.

- **The IPCC Report:** In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report[2] that received international publicity. The report emphasised the need to keep the rise in global temperatures to **under 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels, rather than 2°C, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in order to minimise detrimental impacts on society, human health and wellbeing, the economy, world food production and the natural environment, across the globe.

The IPCC report stated that achieving this will require **"rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society"**. This means changes to our energy systems, the way we manage land, our lifestyles, and the way we move around and use transport.

The IPCC report triggered declarations of 'Climate Emergency' by national and regional governments around the world to set stronger targets and galvanise action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions drastically and urgently.

3.2 UK Climate Change Policy

The Climate Change Act 2008 set the '2050 target' for the UK, to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline.

The UK's Committee for Climate Change provided recommendations to the UK Government in May 2019 following the publication of the IPCC report. In response, the UK Government recently lodged amendments to the Climate Change Act to set a target for the UK of **100% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050**.

3.3 National Policy Context: Scotland's World-leading Climate Change Legislation

Scotland has world-leading climate change legislation, with ambitious targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

- **Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019:** Scotland now has the most stringent statutory climate change targets in the world. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019[3] received Royal Assent on 31st October 2019. The new legislation sets an ambitious target for Scotland of **net**

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en
[2] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/
[3] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/15/enacted

zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets of 56% emissions reduction by 2020, 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2040 relative to the 1990 baseline.

- o Under Section 35 of the 2019 Act, Scottish Ministers are required to bring forward a **revised Climate Change Plan** setting out the policies and proposals for meeting the emissions reduction targets set out under the Act. The Scottish Government has indicated that they intend to publish a revised Climate Change Plan within 6 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.
- o Scotland's First Minister declared a global **climate emergency** in April 2019.

- **The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009**[4]**:** The 2009 Act set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. Scotland's emissions have already almost halved since 1990. Since 2009, sustained progress has been made against targets set out in the Act[5]. It is anticipated that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low carbon economy will help create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth[6].

- **Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties:** The 2009 Climate Change Act set out the Duties of Public Bodies in relation to climate change:
  - o To contribute to the delivery of the carbon emission reduction targets set out in the Act;
  - o To help deliver Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation programme; and
  - o To act in the way it considers is most sustainable.

  The Act also set targets for:
  - o Energy efficiency, including promoting energy from renewable sources;
  - o Waste reduction and recycling.

> Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, as a public body East Lothian Council is expected to lead by example in reducing carbon emissions, contributing to climate change adaptation and acting sustainably.

- **The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2018–2032:** The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan[7] details the path Scotland will take to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. A revised plan reflecting the new targets in the 2019 Act is currently being prepared. The Climate Change Plan sets out:
  - o A clear expectation that Scotland's public bodies will lead by example in combatting climate change and make a valuable contribution towards achieving emissions reduction targets;

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[4] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents

[5] Committee on Climate Change national reports https://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/

[6] The Scottish Government's Purpose https://www2.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/purpose

[7] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-climate-change-plan-third-report-proposals-policies-2018/

o A path to a low carbon economy, while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, healthier and fairer Scotland in 2032.

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan promotes **partnership working** between local authorities, local communities and other key stakeholders. Partnership projects promoted by the Climate Change Plan are projects which:

- encourage communities to walk, cycle and use low carbon transport;
- assist communities to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste;
- increase the energy efficiency of homes and community buildings;
- produce food locally; and
- enhance greenspaces and green networks in and around our communities.

The Climate Change Plan also recognises the economic opportunities that are likely to arise, the potential of renewable energy resources and opportunities to restore biodiversity and ecosystems to assist with carbon capture and storage. The Plan seeks to achieve:

- energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions from residential and non-domestic buildings;
- improved air quality in urban areas;
- increased walking, cycling and use of sustainable transport;
- reduction of waste and moving towards a circular economy.

Scotland's National Planning Framework 3
The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan highlights the significant role of the planning system in providing a framework to support and encourage low carbon lifestyles and the transition needed to achieve decarbonisation. The vision of Scotland's National Planning Framework 3[8] is:

- a successful sustainable place
- a low carbon place
- a natural, resilient place
- a connected place

The Scottish Government is currently underway with progressing work to develop the fourth **National Planning Framework (NPF4)**.

The planning system and building standards provide a framework determining the location of new development; ensuring buildings are more energy efficient; promoting renewable energy development in the right places; and ensuring new developments contain infrastructure to encourage behaviour change and reduce carbon emissions. Green networks, greenspaces and woodland creation all support and encourage healthy, active, outdoor lifestyles and provide important roles in carbon reduction and carbon storage.

Building Regulations / Building Standards
The Scottish Government is currently reviewing Building Regulations / Building Standards, including a review of energy standards with implementation programmed for 2021. This review will consider future climate predictions, including consideration of how Building Standards mitigate overheating risk in new buildings.

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[8] NPF3: https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00453683.pdf

Scottish Government National Outcomes

East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy will enable East Lothian to contribute to the following National Outcomes in particular:

- *'We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need'*
- *'We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others'*
- *'We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations'*
- *'We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production'*

The Strategy will also contribute towards a 'Greener Scotland', the Scottish Government's '**Greener**' Strategic Objective under **Scotland's National Performance Framework** (NPF):

> *"To improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it and facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy".*

Sustainable Development

Scotland's NPF outcomes provide context for embedding the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** into local policy.

These goals, also known as the 17 Global Goals[9] and the targets which underpin them, "aim to tackle key systematic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, inadequate infrastructure and lack of decent employment."[10]

Figure 2: The Global Goals for Sustainable Development (source: www.globalgoals.org)

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[9] www.globalgoals.org

[10] 'The New Global Goals: Scottish Government Background Note', available on the Scottish Government's Consultation Hub: https://consult.gov.scot/international-development-team/meeting-global-challenges/supporting_documents/The%20New%20Global%20Goals%20%20SG%20Background%20Note%202.pdf
Scotland's Global Goals: https://globalgoals.scot/scotlands-goals/

East Lothian's Climate Change Strategy is guided by the need to embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals at local level, to show how East Lothian Council will contribute to the five broad principles of **sustainability**[11], which are to:

- live within environmental limits; and
- ensure a strong, healthy and just society

and to do so by means of:

- a sustainable economy;
- promotion of good governance; and
- responsible use of sound science.

The Climate Change Strategy will contribute towards addressing at local level the following **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in particular:

- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land

Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme

The Scottish Government set out its second programme of adaptation to climate change for Scotland in September 2019, entitled 'Climate Ready Scotland: Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024'[12], under Section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This sets out outcomes for adapting to climate change, and the proposals and policies for the next five years to increase the capacity of Scotland's people, communities, businesses and public sector to adapt to climate change.

Our climate affects many aspects of our lives and our economy, including our health, water supplies, road and rail services, energy demands and tourism. Adapting to climate change depends on communities, organisations, businesses and individuals understanding the impacts of Scotland's changing climate and taking action to prepare for its effects.

The Vision of the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019–2024 is:

"We live in a Scotland where our built and natural places, supporting infrastructure, economy and societies are climate ready, adaptable and resilient to climate change"

The second Climate Change Adaptation Programme sets out an Outcomes based approach to "increase the capacity of Scotland's communities, businesses and natural environment to adapt to a changing climate", specifically:

- Outcome 1 (Communities): Our communities are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe in response to the changing climate;
- Outcome 2 (Climate Justice): The people in Scotland who are most vulnerable to climate change are able to adapt and climate justice is embedded in climate change adaptation policy;

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[11]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/323193/Guiding_principles_for_SD.pdf

[12] https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-ready-scotland-second-scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024/

- Outcome 3 (Economy): Our inclusive and sustainable economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate;
- Outcome 4 (Supporting Systems): Our society's supporting systems are resilient to climate change;
- Outcome 5 (Natural Environment): Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change;
- Outcome 6 (Coastal and Marine Environment): Our coastal and marine environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change;
- Outcome 7 (International Networks): Our international networks are adaptable to climate change.

East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy follows a similar approach by embedding Climate Adaptation into each of the key Outcomes and themes in this strategy.

3.4 The Local Policy Context: addressing Climate Change in East Lothian
The Statement of Intent of the **East Lothian Plan 2017–27** is:

> *'We will work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish'*

The East Lothian Plan specifies three key themes that will contribute towards achieving this vision. Climate change mitigation, adaptation and improving sustainability will contribute significantly to achieving the outcomes of Theme 2 of the East Lothian Plan, 'Community-minded'; specifically:

- Outcome 2.1: *'East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other'*
- Outcome 2.2: *'East Lothian people can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment'*.

In the **East Lothian Council Plan 2017–2022** there is a specific focus on how best the Council can contribute to the Scottish Government's climate change targets. The Plan states:

> *'The Council will focus on how best we can contribute to the Scottish Government's ambitious climate change targets. Over the course of this plan, the Council will develop a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, which will give strategic direction to continuous improvement in relation to energy efficiency, climate adaption and sustainable transport.'*

The East Lothian Council Plan also highlights the importance of working in partnership to achieve these targets:

> *'We cannot meet these targets alone and will work with our community planning partners and the private sector to implement low carbon plans and projects across housing, communities and the public and private sector.'*

Mitigating against and adapting to climate change and embedding sustainability are key commitments in the Council Plan under the theme of 'Growing our Communities'. The Council Plan includes an Action under the theme of 'Growing our Communities' to:

> *'Work closely with partners to meet our commitment to Climate Change targets, embedding sustainability principles into decision making and translating them into tangible actions, protecting and enhancing open spaces and habitats.'*

East Lothian Council's Climate Emergency Declaration

A motion declaring a Climate Emergency was unanimously approved by Elected Members at the meeting of East Lothian Council on 27th August 2019. The motion, which was moved by Councillor Norman Hampshire, Cabinet Spokesperson for the Environment, reads:

"There is a global climate emergency. The evidence is irrefutable and the science is clear. Warnings have been issued about the damage human beings are causing to the planet and how that damage has accelerated over the past 50 years.

"The impacts of climate change are having a serious effect on our communities.

"We believe that it's not too late for us to turn things around but to do so requires transformative change and action now.

"East Lothian Council therefore resolves to;-

"Declare a Climate Emergency that requires urgent action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to lobby, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment. East Lothian Council will also commit to work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county as well as enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments."

The key legislative, national and local policy drivers and the strategic documents which align with the East Lothian Climate Change Strategy are set out in Appendix 2.

4. Context: East Lothian

4.1 Location, Landscape and Land Use Context

East Lothian is located on the southern coast of the Firth of Forth. The county borders the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders, and is part of the Edinburgh city region, located to the east of Edinburgh's suburban edge. The county offers a good quality of life, with attractive countryside, vibrant towns, good quality housing and schools. East Lothian residents have generally high levels of health, employment and general affluence relative to the national average.

East Lothian covers approximately 270 square miles in area, and includes 43 miles of coastline, some of the best quality arable farmland in Scotland, woodlands particularly in the rolling foothills in the southern half of the county, rising up to the Lammermuir Hills, which are predominantly heather moorland and grouse moor. The county's fertile farmland produces high quality arable crops; agriculture is the dominant land use in the county today.

Map 1: East Lothian Administrative Area

(C) Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. OS Licence 100023381 (2009)
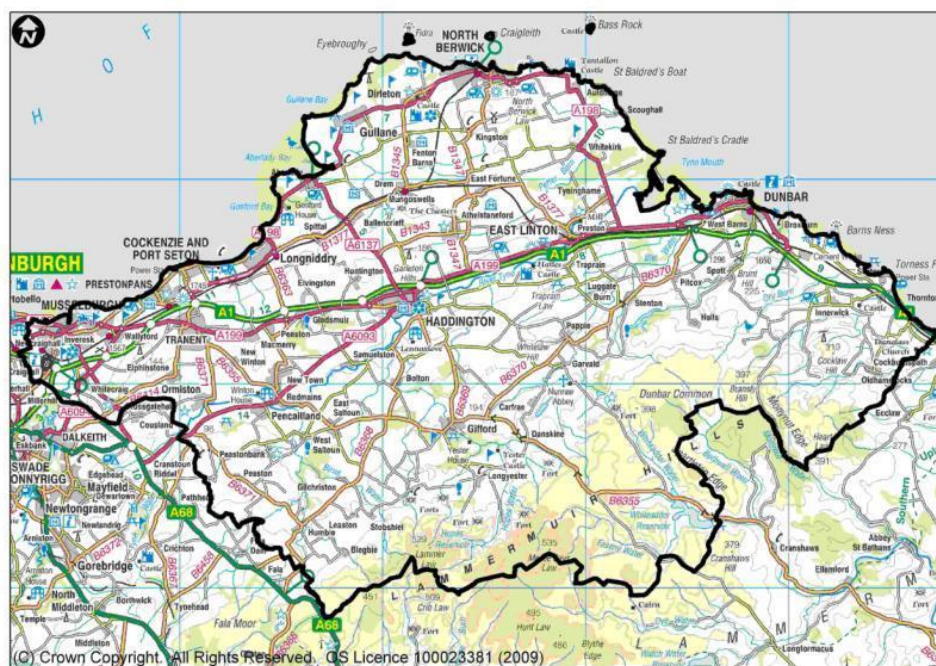
The Firth of Forth Coast in East Lothian is internationally designated, with significant natural habitats for protected species and biodiversity of national and international significance, including Aberlady Bay and the Tyne Estuary at John Muir Country Park. East Lothian has many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Conservation Sites, a network of Local Biodiversity Sites and other areas of natural and cultural heritage value. The attractive coastal landscape and beaches provide important leisure and recreational amenity as well as attracting visitors.

4.2 Settlements

East Lothian has six main towns: the market town of Haddington, which is the administrative centre of the county; Musselburgh, East Lothian's largest town, located in the west of the county adjacent to Edinburgh; Tranent; Prestonpans; North Berwick and

Dunbar. There are also many smaller settlements with their own individual character located around the county, from the coastal communities including Cockenzie, Port Seton and Aberlady, to the Lammermuir villages of Garvald, Stenton and Oldhamstocks. More than half of East Lothian's population is located in the western part of East Lothian.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (SIMD) shows that East Lothian has lower levels of deprivation than most local authority areas in Scotland. However, there are small areas predominantly in the west of the county that fall within the most deprived 20% of areas in Scotland.

4.3 Population Context

East Lothian has a population of 105,790[13]. There has been an 8.5% increase over the last ten years compared to 4.5% growth across Scotland, which constitutes the third largest increase nationally, behind the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian. The population is projected to increase further by 8.6% from 2016–26, compared with 3.2% across Scotland. This is the second highest projected population increase nationally[14].

Forming an integral part of the Council's growth agenda, an additional 10,050 new homes are anticipated to be built in the county by 2024[15]. Development of the new town at Blindwells is underway in East Lothian, and significant expansion is underway at Wallyford, Craighall / Musselburgh, Haddington and Dunbar. Population growth will significantly increase the need and demand for housing, as well as infrastructure, amenities and services i.e. education, roads, rail, public transport, health and social care and community services.

4.4 Transport

The major east coast transport corridor of the A1 Trunk Road and East Coast Main railway Line pass through East Lothian and act as major passenger and freight arteries for national, regional and local traffic. A railway branch line connects to North Berwick.

The west of the county is currently the most accessible, with road, rail and public transport connectivity to the wider city region. However, there is an underlying problem of limited capacity in transport infrastructure and services. Road network capacity in particular is already an issue, especially in the west of the county.

These factors are particularly relevant because travel demand is expected to increase in the coming years, and this has been factored into the impacts of the anticipated growth.

The county's Core Paths network consists of designated National Cycle Routes, strategic active travel routes and rural recreational paths. The John Muir Way coast-to-coast path runs through the county and the terminus of the route is at Dunbar, at the birthplace of John Muir, the visionary nature conservation pioneer and founder of America's National Parks.

4.5 Energy

Major electricity and gas distribution networks cross East Lothian. East Lothian's strategic coastal location has made it an ideal location for onshore power generation and grid connectivity. Cockenzie Power Station operated from 1967 until 2013, when it was

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[13] https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018

[14] https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-projections/sub-national-pp-16/pop-proj-principal-2016-tab-publication.pdf

[15] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13023/local_development_plan_2018

decommissioned. Torness Nuclear Power Station is located east of Dunbar in a coastal locality.

Nationally significant wind farms have been constructed in the Lammermuir Hills in recent years, particularly Crystal Rig and Aikengall wind farms. Numerous smaller scale wind turbine developments have also taken place.

New Energy from Waste plants have recently been constructed at Oxwellmains near Dunbar and at Millerhill in Midlothian. There may be potential for heat networks to develop within East Lothian and also to be extended into the area, particularly at Craighall and Oxwellmains (adjacent to the new Energy from Waste plants), and potentially at Cockenzie and Blindwells new town.

Other renewable energy projects have taken place, particularly landfill gas and anaerobic digestion but also including hydro schemes, and there are consents for solar energy parks within East Lothian but none have yet been implemented. A range of domestic or small scale renewables have also been implemented: solar, air and ground source heat pumps, and biomass.

Locations on East Lothian's coastline could provide future on-shore grid connections to new off-shore renewable energy projects off the east coast of Scotland. This will need to be balanced with land use requirement for providing local employment.

4.6 Economy

East Lothian's economy was historically built on coal mining, fishing, agriculture and manufacturing. Today, East Lothian's local economy is diversifying, with a relatively high proportion of small to medium enterprises. A high proportion of East Lothian's working age population commutes outwith the area daily to employment in Edinburgh.

However, Queen Margaret University, located on the outskirts of Musselburgh, is an economic asset with associated economic development opportunities emerging.

Tourism and food and drink are thriving sectors of East Lothian's economy, assisted by the county's proximity to Edinburgh. Golf is another major economic sector, with the county boasting world-class golf courses. Heavy industry in East Lothian includes the cement works located at the limestone quarry to the east of Dunbar. Agriculture also continues to be an important sector in East Lothian.

Figure 3: View across East Lothian from Lammer Law   *Photo by D. Priddle*

5. Context: Climate Change Mitigation in East Lothian

Climate Change Mitigation means the actions we can all take to reduce our carbon emissions, which will help to reduce global warming and the serious effects this will have on the environment, society and the economy. Sequestration through tree planting, peat, saltmarsh is an important mechanism to offset and 'lock in' carbon.

5.1 National Context: Scotland-wide carbon emissions reductions
Scotland has met its annual carbon reduction targets to date and has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost half since 1990, continually out-performing the rest of the UK in emissions reduction. However, although there have been significant carbon reductions in Scotland's energy and waste sectors, a lack of progress has been seen in other sectors, particularly transport, agriculture, forestry and land use[16].

The most recent greenhouse gas emissions reduction figures available show that the largest source of emissions in Scotland was from Transport (including International Aviation and Shipping) (36.8% of Scotland's total emissions; 14.9 $MtCO_2e$), followed by Agriculture and Related Land Use (23.9% of total emissions; 9.7 $MtCO_2e$) and Business and Industrial Process (21.4% of total emissions; 8.7 $MtCO_2e$)[17].

5.2 The role of Local Authorities and reporting of carbon emissions
Local authorities' climate change duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 are subject to a transparent process of data recording and monitoring by the Scottish Government. In 2007, all Scottish local authorities signed the **Climate Change Declaration**[18] to agree to work towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, and commit to take action to reduce corporate carbon emissions.

The Climate Change Declaration has now been superseded by **Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties Reporting** annually to the Scottish Government, which is coordinated by the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). The first Climate Change Reporting year was 2013/14, and reporting has been mandatory since 2014/15. The annual Climate Change Reporting records of all Scottish local authorities, including East Lothian Council, are publicly available on SSN's website[19].

5.3 East Lothian's carbon emissions
The UK's carbon emissions statistics are published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change[20] although with a two-year lag in the data. The data is per capita (i.e. adjusted for population size).

The per capita carbon emissions in East Lothian that are **within the scope of influence of East Lothian Council** (i.e. excluding emissions associated with large industrial installations, diesel railways and land use/land use change) are shown in Figure 4. This includes East Lothian's emissions from:

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[16] https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-emissions-in-scotland-2018-progress-report-to-parliament/

[17] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2017/

[18] https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20170701234938/http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/howyoucanhelp/publicbodies/publicsector-1

[19] SSN Climate Change Reporting: All public bodies' reports: https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports ;
East Lothian Council's Climate Change Reports: https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports/east-lothian-council

[20] UK emissions statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017

- Industry and Commercial Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels;
- Agriculture;
- Domestic Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels;
- Road Transport (A roads and minor roads).

Figure 4: **UK Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions Estimates 2005–2017 (kt CO$_2$) within the scope of local authorities[21]: Comparison of East Lothian emissions and Scotland-wide emissions (per capita):**
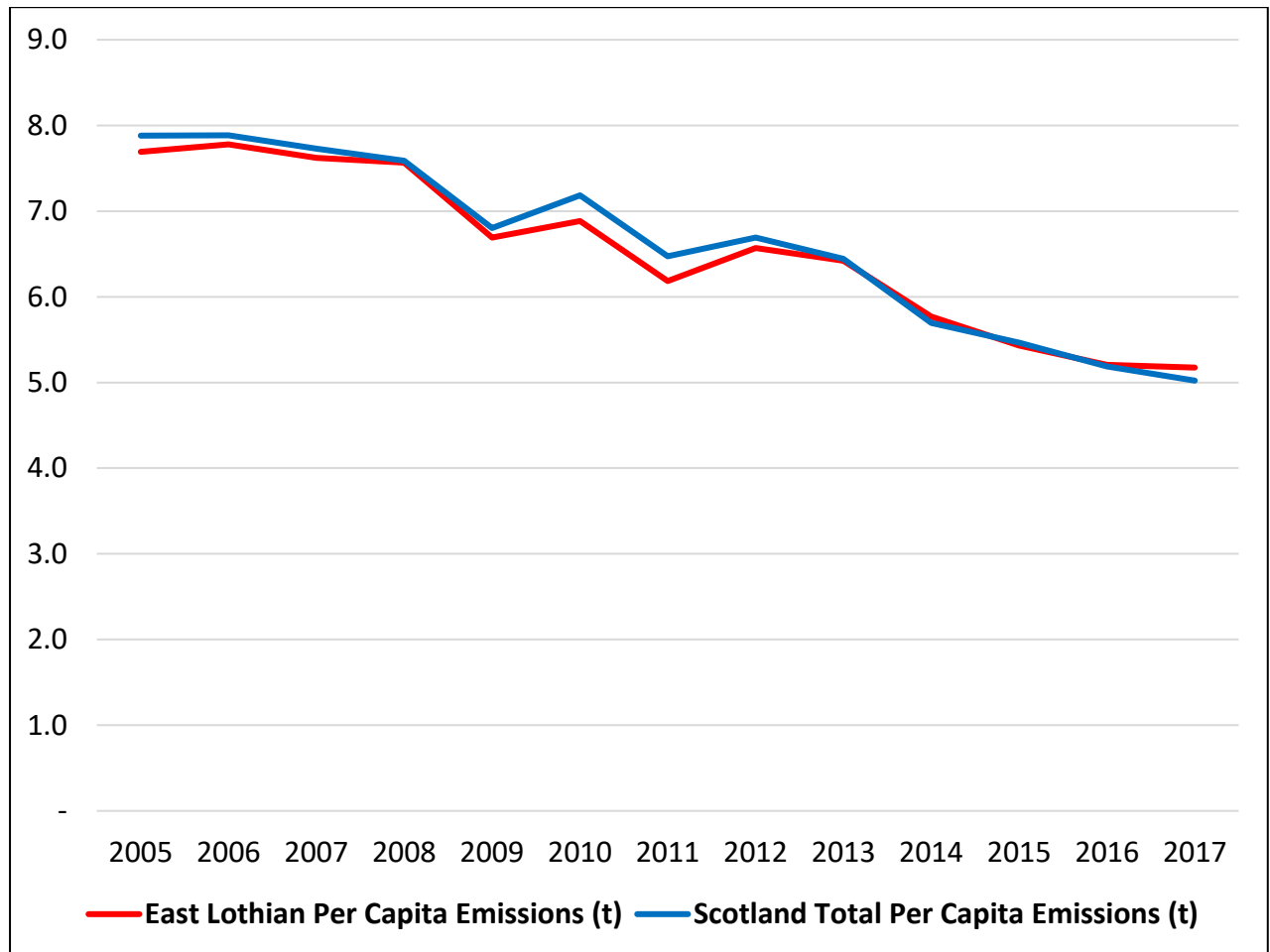
Figure 4 shows that East Lothian's carbon emissions within the scope of local authorities follow the Scotland-wide trend of a steady decrease, and are close to the Scottish average. Between 2005 and 2017, **East Lothian's per person emissions reduced by 32%**.

The majority of these emission reductions for East Lothian were associated with reduced electricity consumption by industry and commercial businesses, but there has also been a reduction in domestic energy emissions, as shown in Figure 5.

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[21] Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017

Figure 5: UK Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions Estimates 2005–2017 for East Lothian (kt CO_2)[22] within the scope of local authorities, showing total emissions for the Industry and Commercial, Domestic and Transport sectors:
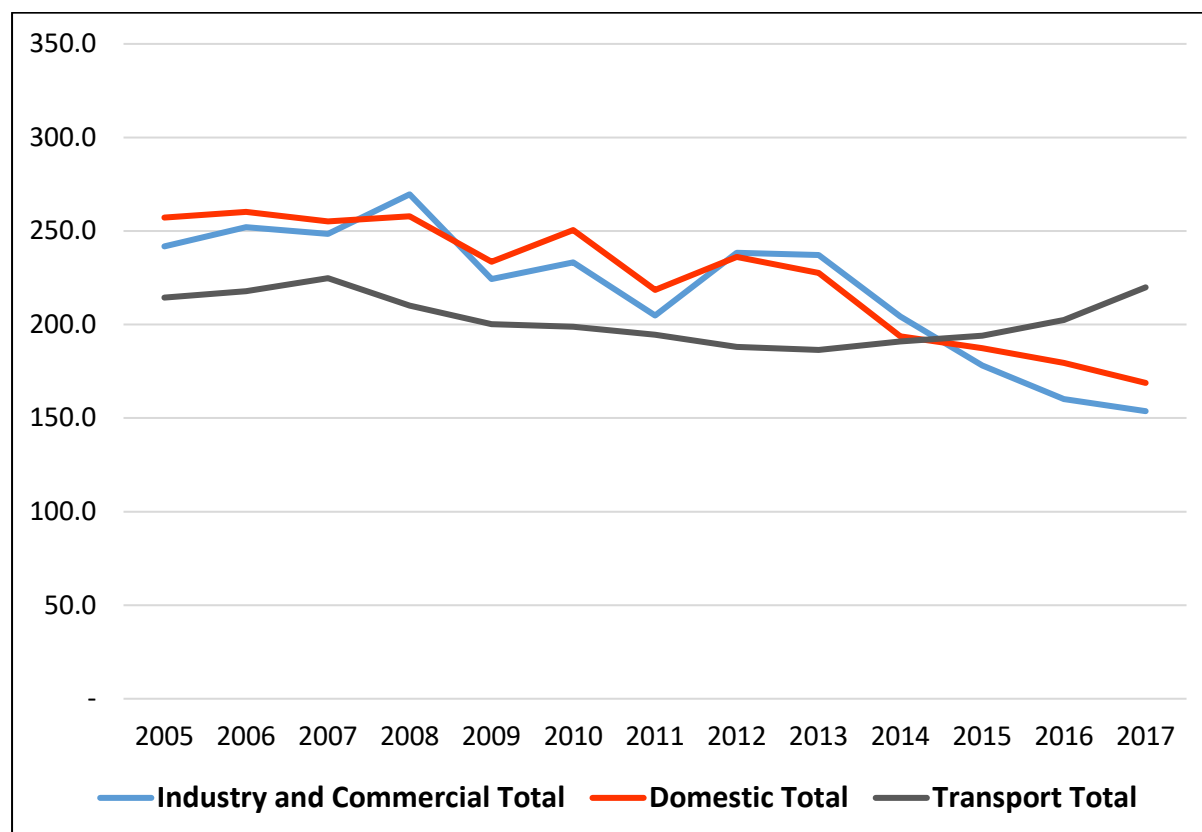
Until 2013, emissions associated with transport in East Lothian showed a steady reduction, however this figure is now increasing (Figure 5). East Lothian has a relatively high proportion of carbon emissions from transport, which may be due to the increasing use of cars in particular. Car ownership levels in East Lothian are above the national average, reflecting the rural nature of much of the county and the resulting car dependency that this creates. East Lothian is also a relatively affluent county, with a third of households having access to more than one car[23].

Figure 6 shows a detailed breakdown of East Lothian's annual emissions by sector, similarly showing decreases in most sectors with the exception of Road Transport (A roads and minor roads).

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[22] Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017
[23] Scottish Household Statistics 2016 (as referenced in East Lothian Local Transport Strategy 2018-2024)

Figure 6: UK Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions Estimates 2005–2017 for East Lothian (kt CO_2)[24] within the scope of local authorities: Detailed breakdown of emissions sources by sector:
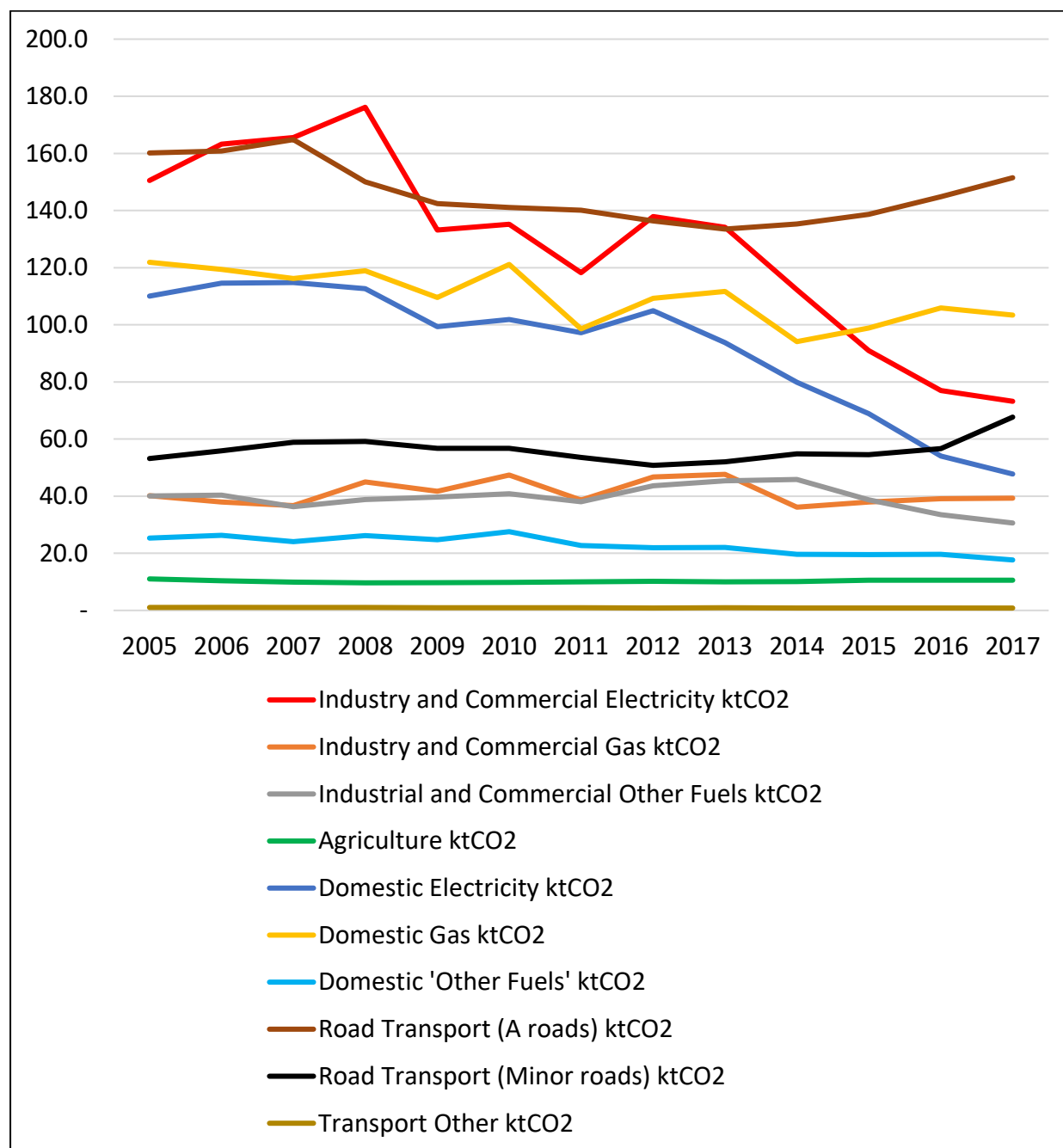
Figure 7 shows that in 2017 emissions from Transport made up the largest proportion (41%) of East Lothian's emissions (within the scope of local authorities).

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[24] Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017

Figure 7: East Lothian's Total Carbon Dioxide Emissions Estimates by Sector for 2017 (kt CO_2)[25], within the scope of local authorities:

East Lothian: CO2 Emissions Estimates Within the Scope of Local Authorities (Totals) 2017 (kt CO2)
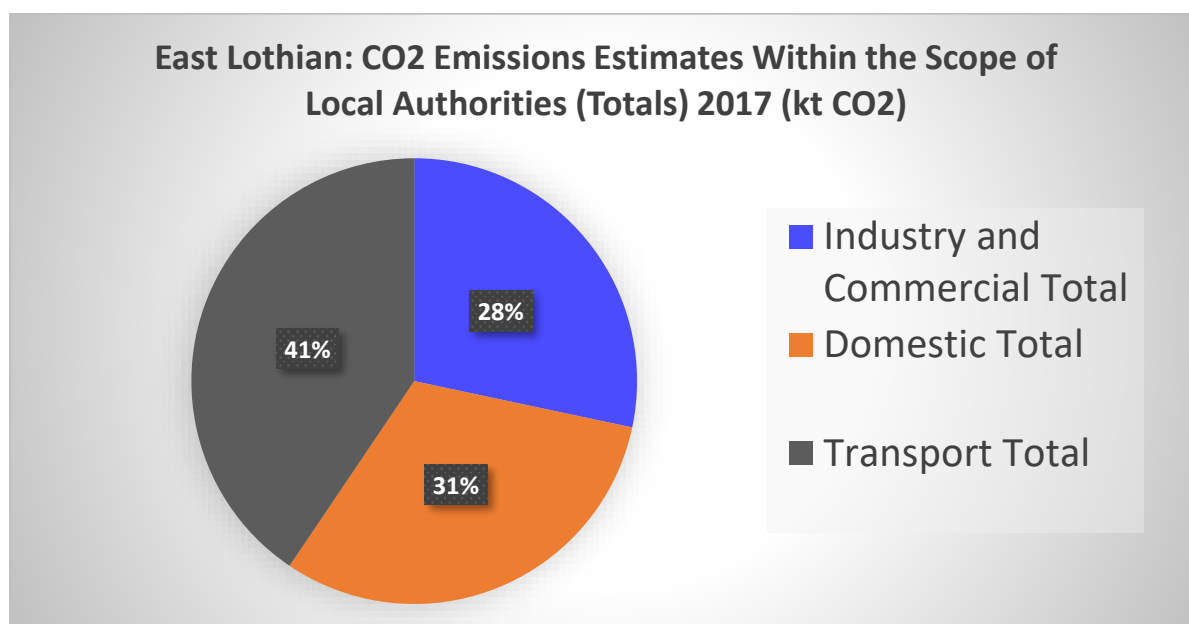
There is a need to address these issues in East Lothian in order to further reduce carbon emissions and continue to meet the ambitious Scottish Government targets. In particular, the increasing levels of emissions from transport in East Lothian is a concern and significant modal shift is necessary in the transport sector, as well as continuous improvements in emissions reductions in other sectors.

5.4 Key Challenges and Opportunities for East Lothian

- **Rapid population growth:**
  East Lothian has a rapidly growing population and this is expected to continue, as East Lothian has the second highest projected population increase of any Scottish local authority area[26]. This anticipated population growth will require expansion of associated infrastructure and development, including housing and transport, and the redesign of amenities and services. Development of the new town at Blindwells is underway, and significant expansion is taking place at Wallyford, Craighall / Musselburgh, Haddington and Dunbar. The predicted population growth will require new build schools / expansion of existing schools and reassessment of the Council's existing assets, including public buildings. This creates opportunities for low carbon innovation across sectors.

- **Modal shift towards energy efficiency and low carbon transport:**
  New developments and infrastructure are being developed in East Lothian with sustainability more embedded and more energy efficient buildings despite national

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[25] Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017

[26] https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-projections/sub-national-pp-16/pop-proj-principal-2016-tab-publication.pdf

Building Regulations not having yet been updated to ensure all new buildings are Net Zero. Energy efficiency programmes are underway for existing housing and Council buildings, and those of our partner organisations. However, transport remains a significant challenge in East Lothian, even though modal shift is underway to more active and sustainable travel modes including electric vehicles. The anticipated population growth will also create opportunities in Zero Carbon housing, green network enhancements, low carbon heat technology opportunities, and opportunities to improve active and sustainable travel and public transport viability.

6. Context: Climate Change Adaptation in East Lothian

Reducing carbon emissions urgently will help to mitigate against the global impacts of rising global temperatures. However, the climate is already changing as a result of global warming, and impacts are already affecting our natural environment, buildings, infrastructure and our society. We will be increasingly vulnerable to the consequences of global climate disruption, which is likely to include disruption of food and other supply chains, migration pressures and disruption to the global economy. Those who are already at a socio-economic disadvantage, including those in poverty and the most vulnerable in our society, are predicted to be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

'Climate Change Adaptation' is how we can prepare for and adapt to extreme weather events and become more resilient in the face of a changing climate. This will help to reduce inequalities, and enable our communities to be more resilient for the future.

6.1 Scotland's changing climate

In Scotland over the last century temperatures have increased, sea levels have risen and rainfall patterns have changed, with increased seasonality, flooding and more heavy downpours. We have also been impacted by extreme weather events, including the so-called 'Beast from the East' heavy snowfall event in 2018.

Changes in our climate that we have already experienced include[27]:

- Scotland's warmest year on record was 2014 and the 10 warmest years on record have all been since 1997. The average temperature in the last decade (2009–2018) was 0.67°C warmer than the 1961–1990 average;
- Scotland's wettest year on record was 2011 and annual average rainfall in the last decade (2009–2018) was 15% wetter than the 1961–1990 average, with winters 25% wetter;
- Mean sea level around the UK has risen by approximately 1.4 mm per year from the start of the 20th century, when corrected for land movement;
- During winter 2015–16, Scottish communities experienced unprecedented floods, with long lasting impacts. In 2018 an extremely cold winter and hot summer indicated some of the weather events that may challenge Scotland in the future.

These changes in climate are already impacting people and places across Scotland. We can expect future changes in our climate to be far greater than anything in the past. This will create a wide range of threats and opportunities to Scotland's environment, infrastructure, economy and people. Climate Change Adaptation means adjusting to these impacts of climate change, to reduce the negative impacts and exploit any opportunities. By planning and preparing for change now, and by taking early action, we will be able to increase resilience and reduce risks[28].

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[27] Source: https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-ready-scotland-second-scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024/ based on Met Office data

[28] Based on information provided by Adaptation Scotland https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/

6.2 Future climate impacts in East Lothian

Changes in climate are projected to continue and intensify over the coming decades[29] (see Figure 8). Scotland's changing climate will impact our communities in different ways.

Figure 8: **Summary of projected changes to Scotland's climate based on low and high greenhouse gas emission scenarios** (results are for the 50th percentile for 2070 relative to 1981–2000)

Source of infographic: https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-ready-scotland-second-scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024/
Scotland's climate projections are taken from the UKCP18 Climate Projections published by the Met Office
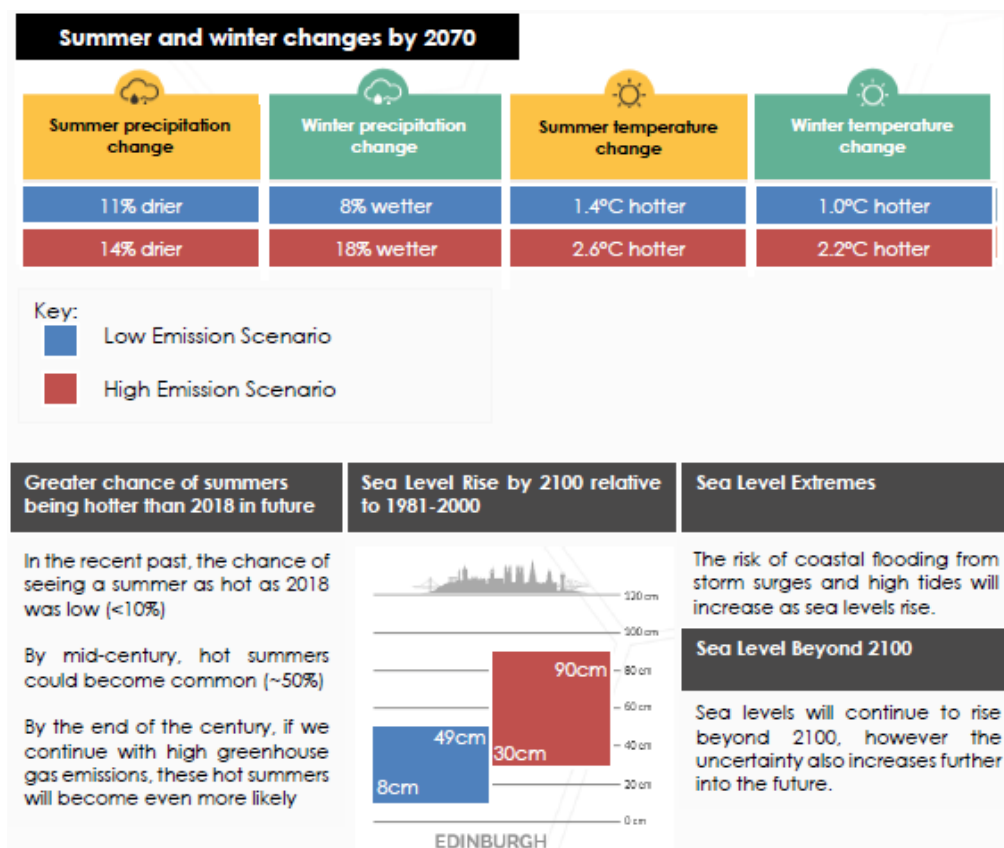
According to the Met Office UKCP18 Climate Projections[30], by 2070 in East Lothian we will experience:

- **Warmer, Drier Summers**: up to 2.6°C warmer by 2070 with around 11–14% less rainfall, bringing the potential for extended periods of drought; by the end of this century hot summers are predicted to become more likely;
- **Milder, Wetter Winters:** up to 2.2°C warmer by 2070, with up to 18% more winter rainfall, increasing the risks of storms and flooding; more frequent winter rainfall could bring increased flooding from rivers and increased damage to buildings;
- **Rising Sea Levels:** Sea levels around East Lothian's coast are projected to rise by up to 90cm by 2100; increased frequency of storm surges could lead to more widespread coastal flooding and erosion;

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[29] Met Office UK Climate Projections (Nov 2018): https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp
[30] https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp

- **Severe Weather Events:** The predicted trend is for greater frequency and intensity of extreme events, including storms and floods, as well as heatwaves and droughts.

6.3 East Lothian's Climate Risks and Impacts

The Council has undertaken a **Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCIP)**, which identified climate risks and highlights East Lothian's vulnerability to severe weather events and the impact on local communities and the Council's assets, infrastructure and capacity to deliver services. These climate impacts include:

- Effects on infrastructure and society of extreme weather events such as storms, high winds and heavy snow, including damage to buildings and power supply, blocked roads, transportation problems, impacts on services such as social care and waste collection, impacts on business continuity, and school closures;
- Heavy or prolonged rainfall and/or coastal inundation causing flooding, with potentially severe detrimental impacts on our communities, particularly on the most vulnerable in our society.

"The changing climate will impact all of Scotland's communities and each community will be affected in different ways…. Increased storminess could result in increased coastal erosion, surges and wave overtopping of coastal defences and infrastructure. Sea level rise could affect the viability of some coastal communities through flooding and erosion."

Reference: Scottish Government's Climate Ready Scotland 2019

Dunbar coast

The challenges of a changing climate are already impacting on East Lothian and our communities. Without taking action to adapt to this, there will be negative impacts on the running of East Lothian Council and the services it provides, and on East Lothian's businesses, communities and natural environment.

6.4 Key Challenges of a Changing Climate in East Lothian:

- East Lothian's climate is changing and there is a need to adapt to further climatic events and ensure resilience: this is challenging and likely to be resource intensive;
- It is difficult to predict when and exactly where climatic impacts will occur; we have to work around most likely scenarios and projections;
- Key challenges are:
  - o flood protection and flood risk management;
  - o adapting our buildings, services and infrastructure to climate change;
  - o helping our communities and businesses to adapt and be more resilient to future climate impacts; and
  - o managing the natural environment to provide climate adaptation benefits whilst protecting our natural heritage assets.

- The changing climate globally is also likely to impact on East Lothian, for example migration from other regions, impacts on supply chains, and changes to global food production which could affect the protection / use of agricultural land.

6.5 What does Climate Change Adaptation involve?

Climate Change Adaptation focuses on enabling our economy, environment and society to increase resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. It means making changes to the way we design, manage and use land, buildings, services and infrastructure.

Climate Change Adaptation in East Lothian will involve:

- Understanding what the future climate impacts will be in East Lothian;
- Identifying what can be done to prepare for and reduce the impacts of future climatic events and taking action to address these impacts.

East Lothian Council, as the lead for community planning, has a role in delivering climate change adaptation across East Lothian. The Council also has to prepare its own buildings, infrastructure and the services it provides for future climate change impacts and ensure business continuity in the face of extreme weather events.

We need to continue to understand and manage these risks and work together with our communities and with other organisations and national agencies, to ensure that land, buildings, services and infrastructure continue to function and that East Lothian is resilient to unexpected weather events. No one organisation can address this in isolation. Success will depend on accepting responsibility and working in partnership.

The Council will lead by example in preparing for and managing climate change impacts. We will take action to ensure that East Lothian's natural environment, buildings, infrastructure and society are adapted to the effects of climate change, and our communities are resilient to further changes in the future. We will work in partnership to develop resilient communities, ensure businesses are prepared with Business Continuity Plans, and help ensure our natural environment can help us adapt to climate change.

6.6 Our Climate Adaptation Key Objectives are:

- Climate Ready Society: Our communities, businesses and other organisations will become more resilient and adapt to climate change;
- Climate Ready Buildings and Infrastructure that are adapted to climate change;
- Climate Ready Natural Environment that helps us to adapt to climate change.

Throughout this Strategy we set out how we will address these impacts and achieve a well-adapted Council and a well-adapted and resilient East Lothian.

7. Outcomes

Based on this context and to address the Scottish Government's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 and prepare for climate change impacts, this Strategy has identified the following key Outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council
- **Outcome 2:** Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality
- **Outcome 3:** Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate
- **Outcome 4:** A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste
- **Outcome 5:** A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy
- **Outcome 6:** A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral
- **Outcome 7:** East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change

Each of these are set out in the following chapters, along with the Key Priority Areas and Actions to achieve these Outcomes, to show how East Lothian Council will lead the way to a net zero and sustainable East Lothian that makes its full contribution to national and international emissions reduction and sustainability goals. The Council will continue to work with its partners and other public bodies, including those in the East Lothian Partnership, to improve outcomes for local people and work together to tackle climate change in East Lothian.

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council

Our Ambition and Target is:

East Lothian Council will reduce its overall carbon emissions from the Council's own estate and operations over the 5 year period of the Climate Change Strategy to contribute towards making all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as possible or in any case by 2045

East Lothian Council will reduce corporate emissions to ensure we fulfil our obligations to tackle the Climate Emergency and will embed sustainability into our policies, systems and processes across Council Service Areas. In this chapter we set out our current emissions data and the progress we have already made towards Net Zero, and the Key Priority Areas that will enable us to achieve our ambition and target.

East Lothian Council's carbon emissions data and baseline

In its Climate Emergency declaration East Lothian Council committed to making all our Council Services Net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to engage, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets strong targets for Scotland of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets of 56% emissions reduction by 2020, 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2040 relative to a 1990 baseline. The Council will prepare to meet this challenge across all aspects of our estate and operations, and will continue to fulfil our Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The Council is working closely with the Scottish Government to identify the opportunities, tools, powers and resources required for public bodies to meet these stringent new targets, to enable the Council to fully fulfil its obligations under the Climate Emergency and achieve Net Zero emissions by 2045 or as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Scottish Government's emissions reduction targets are measured from a Scotland-wide baseline year of 1990. However, comparable data for East Lothian is not available from 1990. East Lothian Council has reported annually to the Scottish Government on its carbon emissions[31] since 2014/15. The Council's Carbon Management Plan 2009–2014 set out a plan for reducing carbon emissions associated with the Council's own estate and services starting from a baseline of **44,034 tCO$_2$e in 2007/08**.

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[31] East Lothian Council's Climate Change Reports: https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports/east-lothian-council

East Lothian Council's carbon footprint

East Lothian Council's annual Climate Change Reporting on its carbon emissions commenced in 2014/15 and the most recent report was submitted in November 2019. The reports set out how the Council is responding to the challenges of climate change and carbon emissions reduction.

The 2018/19 report includes a breakdown of the Council's carbon footprint, which is **15,007 tonnes CO₂e**[32] (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2018/19, compared with 17,204 tonnes CO₂e in 2017/18, 17,610 in 2016/17, 19,086 in 2015/16 and 20,763 tonnes CO₂e in 2014/15 (illustrated in Figure 9).

Due to the implementation of a new Fleet data system, this is the first year that we have been able to include emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet, providing a full dataset for East Lothian Council's corporate emissions.

> **The Carbon Footprint** is defined as the total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by an organisation, and is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). This enables a comparison of the different greenhouse gases relative to one unit of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and takes into account their global warming potential (GWP). Source: Carbon Trust

Figure 9: East Lothian Council's annual total carbon emissions, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), showing emissions reduction:

East Lothian Council's Total Annual Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)
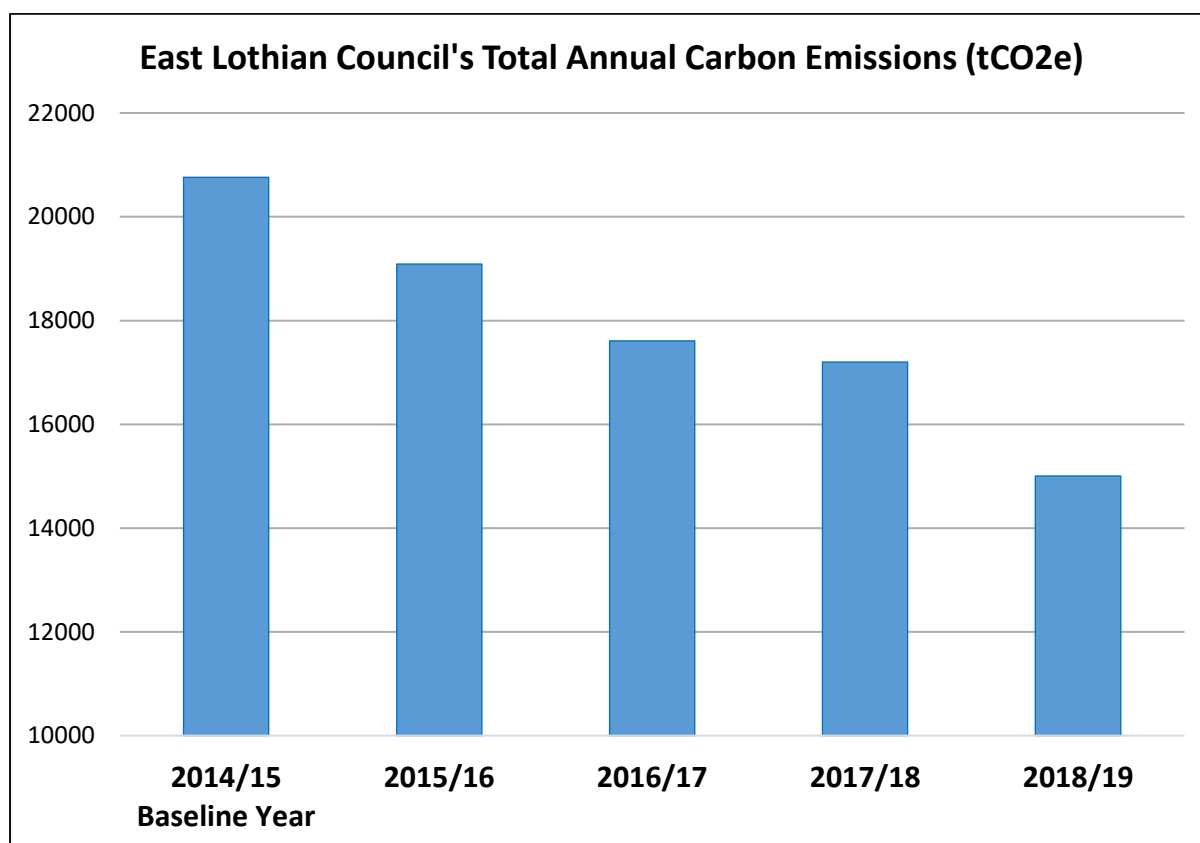
Figure 9 indicates that East Lothian Council has made significant progress in emissions reduction. Even with the new full dataset, incorporating the Fleet data in 2018/19, our

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[32] Figures from East Lothian Council's Climate Change Report 2018/19, published in Members' Library Service Report

emissions fell by **12.8%** in one year, from 2017/18 to 2018/19. **Since our first reporting year (2014/15), our total carbon emissions have fallen by 28%.**

Measured from our baseline of **44,034 tCO₂e in 2007/08**, as set out in our Carbon Management Plan 2009–14, **our total emissions have already reduced by 66%.**

It is evident that the Council is making good progress in respect of emissions reduction, year on year, despite significant population growth. The Council has also strived to improve the extent and integrity of the data that we collect, and we will continue to do so. This is an imperative if we are to successfully design and model future interventions.

For 2018/19, East Lothian Council's carbon emissions included the following sources:

• Refuse commercial and industrial to landfill	3,395 tonnes
• Organic garden waste composting	8,817 tonnes
• Mixed recycling	18,675 tonnes
• Refuse municipal / commercial / industrial to combustion	139 tonnes
• Grid electricity	20,653,381 kWh
• Natural gas	29,643,195 kWh
• LPG	79,827 litres
• Gas oil	114,649 litres
• Burning oil (kerosene)	14,101 litres
• Water supply and treatment	128,056 m³
• Average car – unknown fuel	1,189,688 miles
• Bus (Fleet)	298,011 passenger km
• Car – diesel (average – unknown engine size) (Fleet)	84,717 miles
• HGV – average all types & sizes (diesel; 50% laden) (Fleet)	398,002 miles
• Van – average (up to 3.5 tonnes) diesel (Fleet)	1,785,099 miles

The detailed breakdown of East Lothian Council's carbon emissions sources (from Climate Change Report 2018/19) is set out in Appendix 3.

How has the Council already achieved carbon emissions reductions?

East Lothian Council's **Carbon Management Plan 2009–14** (CMP) set out a plan for reducing carbon emissions associated with the Council's own estate and services. The CMP set an ambitious target to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 5% per year over the 5 years of the Plan, starting from the baseline of 44,034 tCO₂e in 2007/08.

Various projects were undertaken by the Council to meet the CMP reduction target of 25% by 2014, including:

- Energy efficiency improvement projects;

- Improved monitoring of energy use in schools and community centres;

- Improved understanding and increased awareness among staff of carbon management through the establishment of 'CRAW' ('Conserve Resources at Work') programme;

- Improved fleet management, including speed limiters on new vehicles;

- Improved recycling collection and community recycling facilities.

> East Lothian Council's Carbon Management Plan 2009–14 focused on reducing carbon emissions from:
> · Energy and water usage in buildings, including offices and schools
> · Waste
> · Fleet vehicles
> · Business travel
> · Street lighting

Corporate Asset Management

The Council is already leading by example in acting sustainably, reducing carbon emissions, and contributing to a more sustainable East Lothian through the sustainable management of its corporate assets. The Council owns a diverse range of property, land and other assets, which support the delivery of local services, and support the local economy and the wellbeing of people in our communities. These include operational property, non-operational property, open space, roads, lighting and related assets, fleet, information and communications technologies (ICT), and housing.

The Council has an important role in managing these assets and shows leadership in sustainable asset management, as set out in the Council's Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2018–2023.

The Council is currently carrying out an Asset Review Project to ensure that our assets and estate meet the needs of our customers and services and unlock efficiency savings. We will aim to provide effective workplaces through good design of space, supported by the introduction of new ways of working that will facilitate better core service delivery, and will further reduce our carbon footprint and improve environmental performance.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements in Corporate Asset Management that have led to a reduction in carbon emissions and further key projects underway:

Office review and rationalisation, partnership asset planning, improved ways of working

Projects already undertaken to achieve carbon emissions reduction:

- Reducing the Council's office footprint and modernising the workplace through the New Ways of Working strategy;
- Creating a Digital Authority, focusing on increasing web-based transactions and commissioning a new online customer platform in 2018 to facilitate more online access to services;
- Rationalising of Council offices in Haddington in 2016, releasing accommodation for 10 starter offices for rental by local businesses;
- Collaborating with the Scottish Police Authority to co-locate operational and Community Police within the existing Council headquarters in Haddington;
- Relocating the Torness Strategic Coordination Centre from the former Cockenzie Power Station to the Council offices in Macmerry in 2016.

Projects underway to further reduce carbon emissions:

- Reducing our carbon emissions through good asset management and targeted investment;
- Continuing the digital transformation with full roll-out of new Human Resources and Payroll system which reduces the need for many paper forms;
- Delivering Transformational Change and harnessing the opportunities offered by technology in the provision of services, including provision of flexible working practices and rationalising office space to reduce the footprint of our office estate, and looking for opportunities for co-location, sharing assets and integrating services;
- Stimulating economic growth and regeneration in the area, which creates a vibrant local economy, reducing the need for people to travel outwith the county for employment;

- Asset Review Project 2019.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of Council Buildings

Projects already undertaken to achieve carbon emissions reduction:

- Energy efficiency improvement projects;
- Improved monitoring of energy use in schools and community centres;
- A scoping study identified key work streams which form the Council's Energy Transformation Project, and some of these projects are now being taken forward.

Projects underway to further reduce carbon emissions:

- Continuation of energy efficiency improvement projects which are underway;
- The planning process has begun for the installation of more photovoltaic solar panels (solar PV) on the roofs of our existing housing stock;
- New Council housing developments which are currently under construction and those being planned will generally include the provision of solar PV;
- Continuation of projects identified by the Council's Energy Transformation Project;
- Preliminary work is underway on projects to consider the development of a solar farm and hydroponics at a former landfill site. The Council anticipates that the benefits deriving from these projects will be delivered over a 25 year period.

Figure 10: Solar panels on Windygoul Primary School, Tranent

Transport: Council Vehicle Fleet

Projects already undertaken to achieve carbon emissions reduction:

- The Council's Transport Services are actively engaged in developing Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) options across the Council, including utilisation of full EV (electric vehicle) and hybrid technology for pool cars and operational vehicles for staff use. This

is providing staff with the latest vehicle technology, with associated fuel savings, reducing our carbon footprint;

- The Council has put in place an electric pool car fleet for staff use at the Council's Randall House office in Macmerry and John Muir House, Haddington;
- Dedicated EV charging points are currently being installed.

Projects underway to further reduce carbon emissions:

- Electric vehicle leasing is optimised through Transport Scotland funding, with 17 new vehicles being utilised within the Council at present with further funding being secured for additional vehicles;
- An ongoing review of the Council's vehicle fleet is taking place, with options for the most fuel efficient vehicles (Euro 6 vehicles) being investigated;
- An electric bike (e-bike) trial for staff is currently underway.

How will the Council further reduce emissions to reach the 2045 target?

Over the 5 years of this Climate Change Strategy, the Council will:
- Undertake emissions projections to set interim emissions reduction targets;
- Embed carbon management into policies and practices across all service areas;
- Communicate carbon reduction actions and practices to all employees, to ensure participation and input to projects and initiatives, and to encourage further ideas.

We will review and manage the following aspects of our estate, management and operations and will **set specific targets for each of these during the period of this Strategy**:

- land use,
- asset management,
- energy efficiency,
- waste,
- water,
- information and communication technology,
- transport,
- procurement,
- education,
- travel, and
- heat targets.

We will undertake **detailed future emissions projections**, based upon data from Service Areas, to inform the setting of accurate future climate change targets relating to:

- Energy use of buildings and other assets
- Waste
- Streetlighting
- Fleet mileage
- Business Travel
- Water use

These projections will enable accurate longer term emissions reduction targets to be set by the Council for the future. We will review our data and targets annually to maintain

momentum in emissions reduction, as new technology and new legislation enables us to move more rapidly towards Net Zero.

The Council has identified key priority areas for action over the next five years to meet Outcome 1:

Key Priority Area 1: Leadership and Governance

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Declared Climate Emergency;
- Climate Emergency has been incorporated within the Council's Corporate Risk Register;
- Introduction of a new system to record emissions from the Council's fleet data;
- Improved understanding and awareness among staff of carbon management through the establishment of CRAW (Conserve Resources at Work) programme;
- Establishment of a Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Show strong leadership to achieve early and rapid emissions reductions to address the Climate Emergency;
- Take action over the next 5 years to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's own estate and operations to progress towards meeting the 2045 target;
- Embed our aim to achieve emission reductions within our Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan;
- Engage with staff across all departments, and empower all teams to propose and implement new working practices to address the challenge of Net Zero; and share and publicise good practice across the Council;
- Support the Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group to oversee and steer the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy across all Service Areas, with clear monitoring and reporting procedures in place;
- Embed a culture of resource efficiency and sustainability to embed Climate Change objectives across Service Areas, including mandatory e-learning modules for all staff and embed into Induction process for new staff;
- Continue to work with and engage with our key partners and stakeholders to encourage their commitment to working towards achieving the Scottish Government's net zero target;
- Work with the Scottish Government to advocate policy changes to support and enable the Council to make the strong local changes that are essential to make even more of a difference and achieve our climate change ambitions as urgently as possible.

Key Priority Area 2: Embedding Sustainability and ensuring a Just Transition

In January 2016 the Council launched a new Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to examine the impact of our decisions in relation to equality, poverty, the economy and the environment. The IIA enables the Council to promote equality, human rights and sustainability, whereas previously the assessment was limited to an Equality Impact Assessment.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

Completed Integrated Impact Assessments made available to the public assist the Council in meeting its legal requirements to:

- Undertake an Impact Assessment on equality, human rights including the rights of children and young people, the environment and climate change;
- Consider sustainability as part of the decision making process; and
- Identify whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work across departments to understand the impact of its corporate operations, policies and service delivery on society, the economy and the environment, and explore ways to reduce this, in accordance with the principles and requirements of sustainable development and Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Implement an updated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) procedure to ensure that the Council considers equalities, sustainability, climate change mitigation and Climate Justice in all Council policies and decision-making, and that these are embedded in all projects undertaken by services right across the Council.

Key Priority Area 3: Funding and Resources

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

Climate Change is already embedded within many aspects of East Lothian Council service area budgets, however the Council will work closely with the Scottish Government to identify and secure further funding and resources to implement the measures needed to tackle the Climate Emergency locally.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with the Scottish Government for funding, measures and resources to tackle climate change locally; press the Scottish Government for the tools, measures and resources needed for local authorities to deliver these pledges at a local level;
- Work with our partners, including the Scottish Government, COSLA, the Sustainable Scotland Network and other local authorities to draw down specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level;

- Work in partnership with the private sector, third sector and community groups to draw down funding and resources for specific projects to tackle the Climate Emergency locally.

Key Priority Area 4: Reduce Emissions across the Council's Buildings and Services

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Office review and rationalisation, partnership asset planning, and improved ways of working;
- Implementation of the New Ways of Working Strategy;
- Creating a digital authority, focusing on increasing web-based transactions and commissioning a new Online Customer Platform;
- Collaborating with key partners to achieve shared services e.g. Police sharing Council Office space;
- Improved monitoring of energy use in schools and community centres;
- Formation of an Energy Transformation Project Board to explore new workstreams such as energy efficiency projects;
- We have a collection of solar panel arrays across our estate: the combined output from these exceeds 400 kW. The solar panels are used to supply renewable electricity to a variety of our schools, offices, depots, etc. The electricity generated will reduce what we would otherwise pull from the grid;
- In 2017/18 we achieved the following annual generation and export of renewable energy:
    - We consumed 405,819 kWh of renewable electricity generated by our Solar PV (solar photovoltaic panels), an increase of 185,749 kWh per annum since 2014/15;
    - We exported 19,544 kWh of this renewable energy generated by Solar PV.
- In 2018 the solar panels across our estate generated 285,561 kWh, which is enough to supply all the electricity to Macmerry Primary School six times over
- LED lighting upgrades in our buildings and LED street lighting upgrades are estimated to contribute to savings of 92 tCO_2e each year over 15 years. Over the past four years we have been converting our street lighting network to LED units, making substantial savings to our energy costs.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with the Scottish Government to achieve the Scottish Government's 2045 Net Zero target;
- Take action to further reduce emissions from all our Council Services, by setting strong and specific interim emissions reduction targets for each Service Area towards achieving

Net Zero; including reviewing and managing the following aspects of our estate, management and operations: land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication technology, transport, travel, heat;

- Work with the Scottish Government to ensure the funding and policies are in place to enable us to progress plans for all new Council buildings to be Net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable;

- Continue to implement projects under our 'New Ways of Working' strategy, subject to approval and inclusion in capital programmes;

- Undertake an Asset Review Project to identify recommendations regarding reduction in the office footprint and implement these where possible;

- Continue our Asset Management and Transformation Programme, and investigate the inclusion of carbon assessments of proposals.

Key Priority Area 5: Improve Resource Efficiency and Sustainability

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Improved understanding and awareness among staff of resource efficiency and recycling through the establishment of CRAW (Conserve Resources at Work) programme;

- Implementation of CRAW (Conserve Resources at Work) programme which included:
  - o Removal of water coolers from offices and encouragement to refill from mains water supply;
  - o Rationalisation of printers and awareness-raising to reduce printing;
  - o Recycling options across Council workplaces;
  - o Awareness-raising posters and promotion in workplaces.

- Awareness-raising and engagement with staff across Council Service Areas undertaken by the Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer;

- Reduction in use of single-use plastics and increased sustainability across Service Areas.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Facilities Management Services aim to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use plastics by the end of 2020 as part of the UK Plastics Pact;

- Continue to invest in digital solutions to reduce the requirement to use paper;

- Improve waste recycling and food recycling facilities across offices and workplaces;

- Reinvigorate staff awareness and engagement programme across Service Areas, identifying 'Green Champions' across Service Areas to lead local behaviour change;

- Improve systems for waste reduction (e.g. avoiding ordering single use items or ones that will become out of date quickly) and re-use of items as well as recycling;

- Facilities Management Services will aim to use packaging made from a high level of recycled materials in schools with an intention that all waste is used to generate energy.

Key Priority Area 6: Reduce Emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel

Emissions from Transport currently account for the largest source of Scotland's total greenhouse gas emissions. The Council will lead by example to reduce emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- The Council's Transport Services are actively engaged in developing Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) options across the Council, including utilisation of full EV (electric vehicle) and hybrid technology for pool cars and operational vehicles;
- Installation of EV charging points at Council offices and workplaces;
- Trials of electric bikes for staff in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Implement an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy for our Council vehicle fleet;
- Increase the number of Electric Vehicles in the Council's vehicle fleet across Service Areas including pool cars;
- Lead by example in transport modal shift by implementing a 'Green Travel Plan' for Council staff, for work-related travel and for commuting journeys to and from work;
- Explore opportunities through Scottish Government grant funding to move ELC's fleet to electric, hybrid or potentially hydrogen vehicles;
- Introduce electric bikes at our main offices for staff travel use;
- Work to achieve Cycling Scotland *Cycle Friendly Employer* status.

Key Priority Area 7: Sustainable Procurement

East Lothian Council is one of the largest procurers of goods and services in the local area, spending approximately £140 million every year on goods, services and construction projects. This represents a substantial opportunity to deliver additional social, environmental and economic benefits to East Lothian.

Alongside achieving value for money, the Council is committed to maximising the social and economic benefit derived from its procurement and in minimising the environmental impact of goods, services and works that it procures, ensuring that procurement is carried out in a sustainable manner.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- The Council approved a Sustainable Procurement Policy in 2012 that is now being revised and updated;
- Case Study 1.1.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

Implement a **Sustainable Procurement Policy** that will improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of East Lothian, facilitate the involvement of small and medium business enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses and promote innovation. This will also ensure that the Council meets its legal obligations under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, and the Sustainable Procurement Duty under the Reform (Scotland) Act 2014:

> **CASE STUDY 1.1**
> East Lothian Council has already taken steps to improve the sustainability of its taxi contract by setting out the expectation that tenders commit to reducing carbon emissions and support the Council's approach to carbon reduction. Service providers are encouraged to consider how they will work towards a low carbon emission taxi fleet and educate or train drivers in eco-friendly driving techniques.

- Through its Sustainable Procurement Policy the Council will strive to ensure that goods and services are procured ethically and responsibly, from ethical and sustainable sources, including through the supply chain and sub-contractors;
- Community Benefits: The Council will maximise the social benefit derived by incorporating community benefit clauses into contracts wherever appropriate (and in compliance with Public Sector Procurement Regulations), linking this with areas of need in local communities identified by the Area Partnerships via their Area Plans;
- We will produce and implement a new community benefits in procurement procedure, set out in an updated Community Benefits Strategy;
- Environmental Benefits: linked to Community Benefits to improve the local environment in and around our communities, including carbon off-setting projects e.g. native tree planting, woodland enhancement or natural habitat restoration projects, in appropriate locations;
- Adopting principles of waste minimisation, recycling and re-use;
- Minimising the environmental impact of the products that are procured by, for example, selecting durable, low energy products and purchasing goods from accredited sustainable, local sources where appropriate;
- Improving the sustainability of the supply chain by encouraging suppliers and contractors, through specification, to offer sustainable products and services and improve their internal environmental performance.

Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People

East Lothian Council will involve and empower our young people in tackling climate change locally and our schools will be exemplary in embedding sustainability. We value the input, enthusiasm and involvement of our school pupils and young people in raising awareness of

climate change and the urgent need to take action to respond to the Climate Emergency and act sustainably.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Many East Lothian Schools and nurseries are registered with Eco-Schools (worldwide sustainability programme which encourages the school community to plan and take action on environmental issues and earn a 'Green Flag Award') and several hold Green Flag Awards;

- The Council consistently achieved Soil Association Scotland's Bronze 'Food for Life Served Here' Award across its primary schools since 2013;

- Compared with other Scottish local authorities, East Lothian schools have regularly had the highest number of pupils travelling actively and sustainably to school;

- Environmental awareness and recycling levels are high in East Lothian's primary schools with all food waste and packaging separated and correctly disposed of in dining halls and kitchens;

- Case Study 1.2;

- 116 children and young people responded to our survey on 'Helping to tackle Climate Change: What should we do here in East Lothian?' (see Supporting Document 1);

- The East Lothian Youth Council has a focus on tackling climate change locally and is progressing specific projects suggested by and involving young people;

- Primary schools in the Tranent cluster took part in a Circular Economy Challenge in autumn 2019, supported by local businesses which use circular economy business models. The project was set up by Developing the Young Workforce and Young Enterprise Scotland in partnership with our schools;

- 'Bikeability' lessons to encourage more children to cycle, by building confidence and improving 'road sense'; has been rolled out across our schools.

> **CASE STUDY 1.2**
>
> A greater selection of recyclable materials will be introduced across East Lothian's school catering service after Ben, an S1 pupil at Ross High School in Tranent, contacted the Council. Ben said: "I think that by going eco-friendly in our canteens, our schools and East Lothian as a whole can make a great impact on our environment. Only 9% of plastic is recycled and there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish by 2050. I love looking after the environment and I think that by removing plastics in our canteens we can change the world, not just East Lothian."

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Set up an East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum to ensure our young people's voices are heard and to support and empower young people to take action in their communities;

- Embed the objectives of this Climate Change Strategy into the 'Learning for Sustainability' element of the curriculum in our schools through Outdoor Learning, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development education;

- Continue to improve sustainability and recycling in schools and aim to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use plastics from school canteens wherever possible;

- Continue to encourage pupils to eat onsite, providing healthy and desirable meals in schools, that negate the requirement for throwaway food packaging;

- Continue our exemplary record in supplying locally grown food in our school canteens, continue to achieve the Soil Association Scotland's Food for Life Served Here Award, and introduce more vegetarian and vegan options to reduce our carbon footprint;

- Support and promote active and sustainable travel to school across East Lothian, by rolling out 'Bikeability Scotland' training (to teach the skills needed to cycle safely on roads) and 'Play on Pedals' (which has a national aim giving all children, by the time they start Primary 1, the chance to learn to ride a pedal bike) across more schools/areas and undertaking awareness-raising campaigns;

- Support and promote opportunities for pupils to learn about the 'Circular Economy' including learning from local businesses which use this model;

- Support and expand pupils' engagement with and value of the local greenspace through Outdoor Learning as part of 'Learning for Sustainability' within the Curriculum for Excellence including Award schemes (Duke of Edinburgh; John Muir Award; SQA secondary phase awards).

Key Priority Area 9: Climate Adaptation: A Resilient Council

Climate change could impact on East Lothian Council's supply chains, resource supplies (energy, water, materials) and infrastructure. As a provider of a range of local services, the Council could be impacted by changes in temperature, extreme weather and heavy rainfall. This will have consequences for service delivery, creating new demands on emergency response services, the maintenance of buildings and longer term health issues.

By taking a strategic approach to climate adaptation and early action to adapt, the Council will be in a good position to reduce the cost of service disruption and protect vulnerable sites, buildings and communities.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Ensure that our own buildings and services are prepared for and adapted to predicted future climate change impacts;

- Ensure that our approach to Risk Management takes into account the impacts of the Climate Emergency and we are prepared to respond to climate change impacts in our communities;

- Keep up to date our **Corporate Risk Register**, which is in place to manage risks, including carbon management and climate related risks, across all Council services;

- Keep up to date the **Risk Management Plans** for individual Service Areas, which sit under and feed into the overarching Corporate Risk Register;

- Keep up to date our **Severe Weather Response Plan**[33], already in place, which details the procedures to be followed in response to severe weather events, including flooding. It supplements the Council's Corporate Emergency plan, relevant Police Scotland Emergency plans and other partner agencies' plans;

- Our **Strategic Coordination Centre** at Macmerry can be activated during extreme events to manage and maintain the running of key services. It was activated during the 'Beast from the East' extreme snowfall event in 2018 to ensure continuity and coordination of key Council services, including the care of vulnerable people;

- Keep up to date our **Business Continuity Plans** for individual Council Service Areas, which identify threats to services and measures to mitigate against these, with key actions to be taken to maintain business continuity;

- Continue to be involved in the **Adaptation Scotland Learning Exchange**, which enables us to benefit from advice and support from Adaptation Scotland;

- Continue to coordinate East Lothian's **Resilient Communities initiative**, which highlights to communities what they can do for themselves whilst working with the Council at times when unexpected events occur impacting on their daily lives.

A Resilient Council: Our Buildings and Infrastructure
- When we conduct audits and inspections of our buildings and infrastructure, we will ensure that climate change impacts are considered and mitigated against;

- Our new buildings will be designed to be prepared for predicted climate change impacts to ensure future resilience.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 – Climate Action

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[33] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23701/severe_weather_plan_2018

Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality

Our Ambition and Targets are:

Ensure that East Lothian has well-connected, healthy, active communities with improved air quality, where active travel and sustainable transport modes are the norm to access local services and amenities

Transport currently accounts for the largest source of Scotland's total greenhouse gas emissions (37%) and has overtaken energy supply as the highest contributor to emissions in Scotland[34]. Road transport emissions are the largest contributor to Scotland's transport emissions, i.e. cars, lorries, vans, buses and motorcycles.

Car ownership levels in East Lothian are above the national average, reflecting the rural nature of much of the county and its relative affluence, with a third of households having access to more than one car[35].

The **Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) 'Case for Change' Report** highlights peak hour trains from East Lothian into Edinburgh are currently operating at or over capacity, and explores the limited options for improving this in the short term.

On the other hand, bus service frequencies are continually improving and there remains scope for more people to travel from East Lothian into Edinburgh by bus. However, travel times are slower for buses than trains due to sharing the roads with car traffic and additional bus lanes to prioritise bus travel into Edinburgh would make the public transport option more attractive.

Key emissions reduction targets for Scotland's Transport sector are:

* Significant decarbonisation of transport with emissions to fall by 37% by 2032 (from 1990 baseline levels);

Active Travel
is a concept of travel that includes only those forms of transport that require active use of the human body as a transport machine, such as walking and cycling.

Sustainable Transport includes public transport options such as buses and trains, shared community transport, electric vehicles and low-emission vehicles, car share and car clubs.

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[34] Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2017, Scottish Government: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2017/
[35] Scottish Household Statistics 2016 (as referenced in East Lothian Local Transport Strategy 2018-2024)

- Petrol and diesel engine cars and vans to be phased out by 2032;
- A proposed transition to ultra-low emission electric and hydrogen vehicles; and
- Encouragement of active travel (walking and cycling).

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 2:

Key Priority Area 1: Sustainable Transport

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Active and sustainable travel improvements have been implemented in partnership with local communities, Area Partnerships and national organisations;
- Have an adopted Local Transport Strategy which sets out a vision and framework of actions to achieve a model shift away from single-occupancy vehicles, towards active travel and sustainable transport solutions;
- Implementation of the East Lothian on the Move project which promotes active and sustainable transport across East Lothian;
- Embedding sustainable transport improvements into all local Area Plans and delivering actions annually;
- We are developing East Lothian's Electric Vehicle infrastructure to be the most extensive and innovative EV network in Scotland.

East Lothian on the Move
The route to smarter travel

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with our partners, including national transport agencies and local public transport providers, to tackle the challenge of increasing emissions from transport and prioritise active and sustainable transport, e.g. Network Rail to explore new stations, improved connections, longer platforms. In the Local Development Plan, land is safeguarded for a new station at East Linton, as well as platform extensions at all East Lothian stations;
- Work in partnership with our communities (including existing community representative organisations such as Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Tenants & Residents Associations) to identify local travel and transport solutions and to ensure a fair and just transition to a carbon neutral East Lothian;
- Maintain our strong position as one of Scotland's leading local authorities for innovation and coverage of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure by increasing installation of the latest EV infrastructure across East Lothian's communities and along trunk routes;
- Work with our key stakeholders to embed sustainable and active travel within all Area Plans;
- Work with our key stakeholders to secure funding opportunities, including via developer contributions, to help deliver the infrastructure required for sustainable and active travel;

- Work in partnership to continue the increase in bus patronage in East Lothian, as we are currently the only local authority area in Scotland where bus patronage is increasing;
- Review and improve our supported bus services based on the responses to our proposals received during public consultation;
- Support our communities to focus on and promote the changes individuals can make to their individual transport choices;
- Enhance and better integrate public transport provision and connectivity by:
  - Examining the potential for timetable scheduling with transport providers to reduce connection times and enhance multi-modal journeys;
  - Exploring the potential for public transport interchanges across East Lothian;
  - Working to improve rural transport connectivity;
- Continue to work with partners including the Scottish Government's 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' programme and our Area Partnerships on behaviour change interventions to encourage the shift to active and sustainable transport modes, through our 'East Lothian on the Move' project, which has been running since 2015;
- Explore community transport options, particularly for rural areas, to help reduce reliance on cars and isolation.

Electric Vehicle infrastructure:

The Council is leading advances in Electric Vehicle (EV) capacity across East Lothian, particularly the roll-out of electric vehicle charging points across the county, with input from local communities and significant funding from Transport Scotland. Under the banner of '**Electric East Lothian**'[36], our ambition is to provide high quality EV charging infrastructure to encourage more drivers in East Lothian to convert to electric.

- We aim to be one of the leading local authorities in the UK that will enable people to make the switch to Electric Vehicles by providing a comprehensive network of modern and reliable EV chargepoints across the county;
- We are working towards building sufficient public EV chargepoint infrastructure and incentives to encourage a 15% switch to EVs by 2023, as set out in our Electric Vehicle chargepoint (EVCP) strategy;
- All new transport hubs / car parks will include associated EVCP infrastructure;
- **Our key targets until 2023 are:**
  - A Journey (Rapid) charger in each of our 12 largest towns;
  - An increasing number of on- and off-street destination chargers for residential use;
  - Meeting residents' requests for on- and off-street residential chargers on an ad-hoc basis.

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[36] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/electriceastlothian

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian has been consistently successful with active travel to school, as evidenced by the annual national Sustrans 'Hands Up Scotland Survey'[37]. Compared with other Scottish local authorities, East Lothian schools have regularly had the highest number of pupils travelling actively (walking, cycling, scooting) and sustainably to school;

- Case Study 2.1;

- Network improvement fund has enabled infrastructure and connectivity improvements to East Lothian's core paths and cycling routes;

- Setting up of Active Travel sub groups in several Area Partnerships across East Lothian;

- Embedding active travel improvements into all local Area Plans and delivering actions annually.

> **CASE STUDY 2.1**
>
> **Active Travel to School:**
> Dunbar Primary School is particularly exceptional, both in East Lothian and at a national level, with in excess of 80% of pupils travelling to school by active travel modes, from a school roll of almost 1000 pupils.
>
> Source: Sustrans 'Hands Up Scotland Survey'

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Continue to work with key stakeholders and communities to explore new ideas for improving active travel;

- Work with our key stakeholders to embed sustainable and active travel within all our Area Plans;

- Work with our key stakeholders to secure funding opportunities to help deliver the infrastructure required for active travel, and continue to require active travel provision in new developments;

- Continue to support and promote active travel to school;

- All our schools will work towards achieving increases in active travel to school (e.g. *Cycle Friendly School* status);

- Support our communities to achieve *Cycle Friendly Community* Status;

- Progress the implementation of a Segregated Active Travel Corridor across East Lothian, from Dunbar to Musselburgh and beyond;

- Work in partnership with the East Lothian Cycle Forum and other key stakeholders including the Area Partnerships to identify and develop active travel priorities, promote cycling opportunities and the monitoring of their use, and promote the key message that active travel, including cycling for everyday activities, is a positive response to the Climate Emergency;

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[37] https://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/hands-up-scotland-survey

- Continue to develop a connected network of active travel routes around the county in conjunction with Sustrans *Places for Everyone*, to encourage people to walk and cycle rather than using the car;

- Ensure that our places encourage walking, with well-maintained streets, paths and public spaces that are fully accessible and fit for purpose, information on walking routes to key destinations and places to walk, including path signage, seating, public toilets and good, low energy lighting to provide a high-quality, person-centred public realm, and safe places to cross roads with pedestrians given priority at signalised crossings;

- Explore community transport models.

Figure 11: Cyclists on shared-use cycleway between Dunbar and Whitesands

Key Priority Area 3: Improving Air Quality

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

The annual Review and Assessment of air quality in East Lothian by the Council led to the centre of Musselburgh, around Musselburgh High Street, being declared an 'Air Quality Management Area' (AQMA) in 2013. This was due to exceedence of the Annual Mean Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide, associated with road traffic. To address this we prepared and, in 2017, published an Air Quality Action Plan that included various measures, including traffic management solutions, to reduce levels of pollution. As a result the levels of nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA have decreased with no exceedences recorded during 2017 or 2018. Data for 2019 will be published in the Annual Air Quality Progress Report in June 2020. We are currently investigating wider-reaching solutions to future-proof Musselburgh for active and sustainable travel.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Continue to improve air quality in Musselburgh's Air Quality Management Area with traffic management solutions, active travel and public transport improvements, increased access to electric vehicle charging points and public awareness-raising campaigns;

- Investigate collaborative working with City of Edinburgh Council to identify solutions to tackle traffic congestion and air quality in Musselburgh;

- Reduce exposure to poor air quality through urban placemaking, including appropriate green network solutions such as hedges / use of landscaping to buffer emitting development;

- Explore innovative technological solutions to improve urban Air Quality, including the latest version of the CityTree installation for Musselburgh;

- Continue to support the work of the East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership to promote and raise awareness of air quality[38], particularly around our schools, and to deter idling vehicles;

- Promote implications for long-term health and wellbeing, contribution to Placemaking, reducing social isolation and reducing inequalities through reduced reliance on cars;

- Take air quality into account in assessing development proposals, and encourage developers to design for improved air quality.

Key Priority Area 4: Climate Adaptation: Resilient Transport Networks and Infrastructure

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

We have identified and put in place improvements and solutions to adapt East Lothian's transport infrastructure to the effects of climate change, following best practice and national policy advice.

Adaptation improvements undertaken by the Council include:
- Roads and infrastructure management and maintenance measures to reduce climatic impacts on transport and infrastructure, as set out in East Lothian's Local Transport Strategy and our Road Asset Management Plan;

- Coastal protection to protect our key coastal routes (roads, paths, John Muir Way) from the effects of coastal erosion and tidal storm surges;

- Transport emergency planning as part of our 'Resilient Communities' initiative to ensure we are prepared for future severe weather climactic impacts.

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[38] www.switchoffandbreathe.org

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Increase the resilience of transport infrastructure networks: We will work with transport providers and national partner agencies to ensure that our transport infrastructure is adapted to and protected from future climate change impacts such as severe weather events and tidal inundation;

- Continue to review, assess and monitor our transport infrastructure management in response to changing climatic impacts and take action to ensure the resilience of our transport networks;

- Continue to monitor and review the actions in our Road Asset Management Plan;

- Ensure paths are constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces).

Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goal SDG 13 – Climate Action

Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate

Our Ambition and Targets are:

East Lothian's homes and buildings will be Net Zero and energy efficient, enabling us to achieve Fuel Poverty targets, will use low carbon and renewable heat and energy sources, and will be adapted for future climate change impacts

The Scottish Government has designated energy efficiency as a **national infrastructure priority**, and has set this out in their policy document **Energy Efficient Scotland**[39], which provides the routemap to achieving the vision that

'By 2040 our homes and buildings are warmer, greener and more efficient'

Energy Efficient Scotland has two key objectives:
- To remove poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more energy efficient buildings and decarbonising our heat supply.

Energy Efficiency means reducing the amount of energy needed to run appliances, provide services or products, and the measures that can achieve this.

The Scottish Government has an ambition to decarbonise heat by 50% by 2032 and 50% of energy consumed to be renewable by 2030. In Scotland, currently 5.9% of non-electrical heat demand is met from renewable sources. At present 79% of households use mains gas as their primary heating fuel, with the remainder using electric (11%); heating oil (6%) and other fuels such as biomass. For non-domestic buildings approximately 50% use electric as their main source of heat.

The heat and energy efficiency of our homes and other buildings has a large impact on climate change, and although carbon emissions from housing are gradually decreasing, the Residential sector still contributes 14.9% of Scotland's overall greenhouse gas emissions[40]. Scotland's Energy sector has shown a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions over the past few years, predominantly resulting from the closure of coal-fired power stations, including Cockenzie Power Station.

Reducing Scotland's energy demand is a key component of the energy transition. Smarter energy systems, combined with more energy efficient homes with more knowledgeable consumers who have greater control their energy, will be large factors in achieving a net zero economy.

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[39] Energy Efficient Scotland https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-efficient-scotland-route-map/
[40] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2017/

To ensure a co-ordinated approach to the local planning and delivery of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation programmes within Scotland's Energy Efficiency programme (Energy Efficient Scotland), the Scottish Government is proposing to create a statutory framework for Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES).

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 3:

Key Priority Area 1: Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Established an Energy Transformation Board and Programme to look at key workstreams;

- Have a Local Housing Strategy which sets a target for improving the conditions and energy efficiency of stock across all tenures;

- Have an established Energy Advice Service providing advice and support to those households in fuel poverty;

- Embarked on a significant delivery programme of energy efficiency measures within the private sector through the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEPS) to help reduce Fuel Poverty across the private sector;

- Case Study 3.1;

- Installation of energy efficient LED lighting into the Council's non-domestic buildings and shared stairwells across Council stock;

- Undertaken a pilot study on energy efficiency in the Private Rental housing sector in East Lothian, to inform the development of our Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

> **CASE STUDY 3.1**
> East Lothian Council's programme of installing over 6000 energy efficiency measures in homes in East Lothian (both Council owned and private sector housing), including external wall insulation and boiler upgrading, has resulted in better fuel and energy efficiency for households, saving owners / occupiers money on their energy bills.
>
>
>
> *External wall insulation is installed on housing at Pinkie Braes, Musselburgh*

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Continue to improve the energy efficiency of East Lothian homes, including through low carbon and renewable heat and energy sources, and work in partnership with the Scottish Government to set interim targets for the period of this strategy towards reaching **Net Zero** homes and buildings;

- Continue to work with its local delivery partners to deliver an ambitious **energy efficiency programme** in private sector housing. This is targeting fuel poor areas of East Lothian, funded by grants totalling over £5 million from the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS);

- Reduce carbon emissions from the Council's own buildings, estate and operations;

- Continue to implement measures to eradicate fuel poverty;
- Improve knowledge and understanding of our stock, i.e. condition, fuel poverty, energy efficiency;
- Maximise funding opportunities for energy efficiency measures across all tenures;
- Consider links with other areas such as health and wellbeing to promote the delivery of energy efficiency;
- Continuing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard while also meeting Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH) is a priority for all social landlords;
- Continue to explore the principle of working with or creating an Energy Service Company (ESCO), to maximise the benefits of the renewable energy generated by council assets, to create an affordable energy tariff for East Lothian residents and to continue to explore new opportunities for renewable energy generation;
- The Scheme of Assistance is key to identifying households in fuel poverty in private sector housing through the provision of information, advice and assistance;
- Continue to provide energy efficiency advice and support for occupiers to run their homes effectively and efficiently;
- Explore opportunities to widen advice and support on how to reduce energy consumed on sites for production purposes;
- Generally, the most inefficient properties are also those in disrepair and tackling disrepair must come first (this in itself improves energy efficiency and reduces cost). The Council considers this should be addressed at a national level, given that improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's homes is designated as a national infrastructure priority and the skills shortage is not specific to East Lothian. By identifying and supporting appropriate skills to deliver this work-stream, there is a potential opportunity to create a labour market in this area.

Key Priority Area 2: Opportunities for Sustainable Energy and Heat

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

East Lothian's Local Development Plan 2018 (LDP) supports sustainable heat and energy and the transition to a zero carbon county with specific policies for 'Sustainable Use of Energy and Heat in New Development'. The LDP addresses the following in new development:

- Looking to reduce demand for energy and consider generation from low and zero carbon generating technologies;
- Looking to minimise resource consumption through layout and design in larger sites;
- Providing a framework for decisions on low carbon and renewable energy proposals, including onshore wind farm / turbine development as well as onshore works for offshore wind developments;
- In September 2019, the Council added a Planning Condition to all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the

build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Explore Renewable Energy Generation;
- Produce a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy in line with Scottish Government Guidance;
- Explore Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Networks;
- Explore opportunities for district heating schemes within both new and existing developments;
- Explore opportunities to produce energy generation from waste plants;
- Work with partners to continue projects to explore the use of low carbon District Heat Networks in order to capture and utilise waste heat from industry, Energy From Waste plants, ground-source heat from disused mines, other heat sources;
- Implement the Planning Condition for all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points;
- Continue to explore opportunities to develop and implement an energy company;
- Continue to explore the most efficient heat and energy solution on a site basis for new developments e.g. ground source, air source, solar, geothermal;
- Explore the significant opportunities in the former coalfield to transition from coal to carbon neutral, including more sustainable management of water assets, decentralised energy and heat networks, including geothermal potential, and the scope to deliver multifunctional infrastructure that delivers multiple benefits for people, place, the environment and economy;
- Set out a framework and delivery programme for the reduction of energy demand and decarbonising the heat supply of buildings in East Lothian;
- Identify opportunities to identify renewable energy schemes in partnership with our local communities.

Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Buildings

Adapting Buildings: Increasing the resilience of buildings and associated infrastructure networks

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

The Council has identified and put in place improvements and solutions to adapt East Lothian's buildings and associated infrastructure to the effects of climate change, following best practice and national policy advice.

Adaptation improvements undertaken by the Council include the following:

- Improvements to the energy efficiency of housing in East Lothian, delivered with Scottish Government grant funding. This ensures that homes are better insulated, so they are warmer and less likely to be affected by damp and mould growth as the climate becomes milder with wetter winters;

- The Council ensures that all of its properties meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards and Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH) targets, which ensure homes are better adapted for a changing climate, as set out in the East Lothian Local Housing Strategy;

- Choosing sites for new development which are not at significant risk of flooding or coastal erosion, and preventing development where flood risk is unacceptable, as set out in the East Lothian Local Development Plan;

- We have been ensuring the Historic Environment is a driver to reduce carbon emissions, especially the re-use of historic buildings as an alternative to new builds, which greatly reduces the carbon footprint.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Continue to ensure that all of its properties meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards and Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH) targets, which ensure homes are better adapted for a changing climate, as set out in the East Lothian Local Housing Strategy;

- Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change and what individuals / homeowners / employers can do to adapt homes and businesses to future extreme weather events, by setting up a website central hub linking to information from the Council and relevant partner agencies including Adaptation Scotland.

Future buildings improvements for a changing climate could include:

- Adapting the ventilation and insulation of buildings to cope with the impacts of climate change, including natural ventilation and passive cooling measures to prevent buildings overheating;

- Green roofs to keep buildings cool in the summer through the process of evapotranspiration and providing insulation during the winter. They support urban biodiversity and can be integrated into Sustainable Drainage Systems to filter and store rainwater, reducing pressure on drainage systems during heavy downpours;

- In urban areas, green walls and roofs would address the heat island effect;

- Permeable hardstanding within new schemes and working with householders to discourage paving over garden areas, helping to prevent rapid water run-off.

The detailed Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 – Climate Action

Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

Our Ambition and Targets are:

We will work towards a Zero Waste and Sustainable East Lothian, a place of social equity underpinned by sustainability, promoting the Circular Economy, ensuring the next generation has the resources they need to thrive.

The disposal of waste has major environmental and climate impacts, particularly the release of the greenhouse gas methane from landfill sites. Scotland's Waste sector shows a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in recent years, although the Waste Management sector contributed 4.2% to Scotland's overall emissions in 2017[41].

The Scottish Government proposes to achieve a '**zero waste Scotland**', which will contribute to emissions reduction targets and build on the progress that has already been achieved in reducing the climate impacts of waste management in Scotland.

Zero Waste Scotland supports the move to a '**circular economy**', which it defines as "an all-encompassing approach to life and business where everything has value and nothing is wasted. In simple terms, it can be explained as "make, use, remake" as opposed to "make, use, dispose"".[42]

Resource Efficiency means using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable way, to ensure that future generations will have the resources they will need, while minimising environmental impacts and wasted resources.

East Lothian's targets for waste management are set nationally rather than locally. The current Scottish Government targets for waste are:

- 60% recycling/composting and preparing for re-use of waste from households by 2020;
- No more than 5% of all waste to landfill by 2025;
- A ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill by 2025 in line with revised Scottish Government targets.

East Lothian Council will work with partners to ensure that all of East Lothian promotes a reduction in consumption and the sharing of resources and skills.

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 4:

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[41] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2017/
[42] https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy/definition

Key Priority Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- In order to meet the new waste recycling target and Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, the Council adopted an ambitious Waste Strategy in 2014. Every household was provided with access to the following services:
    - weekly food waste,
    - fortnightly glass, cans, plastics, paper and cardboard recycling,
    - fortnightly garden waste collections and
    - fortnightly residual/non-recyclable waste collection.
- A dedicated trade waste collection service including recycling was rolled out to our 1500 customers;
- In 2018 the Council's household recycling rate increased to 53.1%, saving 11,581 equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide (figure calculated using Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Metric);
- We have an exemplary record of consistent improvements in the quality of recyclable materials sent to Materials Recovery Facilities – highlighted by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2018) as the best performing local authority in Scotland;

Figure 12: Waste recycling at the Council's Kinwegar Waste Transfer Station, Wallyford

- The Council's role is to manage and co-ordinate waste and recycling collections across East Lothian and although this covers plastic recycling and disposal this is dictated by international markets and the types of plastic that can be recycled. For all other plastics the Council provides an accepted disposal route;
- The Council has supported the Scottish Government in relation to its proposals for:

- o   Consultation on the plastic bag charge (now implemented);
- o   Consultation on the deposit return scheme (due to be implemented);
- o   Scottish Household Waste Charter;
- o   Consultation on the bans on single use plastics.

- The Council's Waste Services also undertakes an extensive awareness raising programme across the county to inform people about recycling their waste and promoting the five stages of the 'waste hierarchy' (as set out in the EU Waste Framework Directive 2008)[43]:
  1. Prevention
  2. Re-Use
  3. Recycling
  4. Other Recovery (e.g. incineration)
  5. Disposal (landfill)

- The garden waste we collect is delivered to Forth Resource Managements composting facility at East Fenton in East Lothian. The compost is then used for landscaping or sold as a soil improver;

- The glass, cans and plastics collected in the green boxes are taken to the Council's Kinwegar Waste Transfer Station, where the material is bulked and transported to a materials recovery facility in Grangemouth, sorted into individual material stream, baled and pelletised, then re-enters manufacturing as prime raw materials;

- The paper and cardboard collected in the blue boxes is also taken to and bulked at the Council's Kinwegar Waste Transfer Station, and is then transported to a waste and recycling facility at Carberry near Musselburgh; the material is reprocessed into new paper and cardboard products;

- The food waste collected by our waste contractor is bulked at the Council's Waste Transfer Station at Kinwegar and then taken to Earnside Energy at Perth where it is broken down and is then used as a fuel to feed the combined heat and power engine that generates heat and electricity. The heat is used as part of the Anaerobic Digestion process and the electricity is exported to the grid, for use by homes and businesses across the country. The plant can produce 2MW across two CHP engines;

- We made a short video in 2018 that shows what happens to all the material we collect from the kerbside: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxXEgKgh82s&feature=youtu.be

- The number of visits to our Recycling Centres increased in 2018/19 to over 470,000;

- Resource efficiency for businesses: The Council's Economic Development service has employed a consultant for over 17 years, part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, to assist East Lothian's SME businesses to improve their energy and resource efficiency, and save money. The consultant works with businesses, on a one-to-one basis, to develop business plans to improve their efficiency and lower their costs, and can assist them to apply for funding, such as from Resource Efficient Scotland[44];

- Reducing construction waste: East Lothian's Local Development Plan has a specific policy on Construction Waste (LDP Policy W4) which states that site waste management

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[43] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/index.htm
[44] https://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/

plans must be submitted with all planning applications for major developments and should reflect the waste hierarchy, including how materials will be recycled/reclaimed, steps to minimise waste, and management of waste.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work in partnership with our local communities, businesses, groups and organisations towards achieving a zero waste, resource efficient and sustainable East Lothian. This will require a joined-up effort across the county, in our homes and businesses, in the resources that we use and how we manage waste;

- Continue to work to achieve national waste management targets;

- Await further information from the Scottish Government on their Deposit Return Scheme and implementation locally;

- Work with Scottish Government to set targets for being a Zero Waste county: this will require tackling waste at source, ensuring that waste is designed-out of practices in the county and planning for a moratorium on most forms of packaging;

- Continue to progress towards a Zero Waste East Lothian;

- Support our communities to become Plastic Free Communities;

- Maintain our leading position in Waste Recycling management, by continuing our exemplary record of consistent improvements in the quality of recyclable materials sent to Materials Recovery Facilities;

- Sign up Council premises around the county as Water Refill Stations (https://refill.org.uk/) where feasible and install free public drinking water fountains in each town, to reduce reliance on single-use plastic bottles;

- Establish a Zero Waste Events policy, including:
    - working towards a ban on single use plastics and where possible the promotion of reusable options over disposable,
    - promotion of renewable energy options,
    - high standards of waste separation and disposal,
    - requirements for provision and promotion of sustainable travel for event attendees.

- Ensure that sustainability / resource efficiency is a compulsory criterion in the support provided to businesses;

- Work with partners, including businesses, to promote the reduction and removal of packaging and single-use plastics, and wherever possible support the use of reusable items, such as water bottles, cups and takeaway food boxes;

- When packaging is unavoidable, work with partners / businesses to support the introduction of products that are either more easily recycled or composted, and ensure that the collection, processing facilities and infrastructure are in place to accommodate these changes, to avoid the scenario of 'regrettable substitution';

- Support businesses to separate and collect food waste for processing at suitable composting or anaerobic digestion facilities;

- Work with partners to support, encourage and promote investment in environmental initiatives and promotional campaigns to encourage people to make use of reusable items (water bottles, take away boxes and beverage cups) and encourage participation from local businesses;

- Support and work with partners to provide workshops and information events to engage with local businesses and event organisers, ensuring they accept, and encourage customers to utilise, reusable packaging;

- Continue to enforce the LDP policy requiring provision of waste separation and collection facilities, and on production of site waste management plans to manage Construction Waste for major developments.

Key Priority Area 2: Circular Economy

Zero Waste Hubs are located in Dunbar and Musselburgh, run by a non-profit social enterprise which operates across East Lothian in partnership with the Council, and diverts over 30 tonnes of material from landfill each month to reuse for community benefit. In its first year, it diverted 400 tonnes of material from landfill, saving the Council around £40,000 in landfill tax. Its aims also include alleviating poverty and inequalities through the promotion of waste as a community resource.

Other examples of the circular economy are already underway in East Lothian, including 'Recycling First', which assists families in receipt of benefits to access necessary furniture items and collects second-hand furniture to distribute to disadvantaged households.

The concept of a local circular economy is also supported by local organisations such as Sustaining Dunbar. Dunbar was Scotland's first Zero Waste Town. Musselburgh Area Partnership supported the setting up of the Musselburgh Tool Library, which provides an alternative to purchasing tools that may only be used once or very occasionally.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with partners, including businesses and Zero Waste Scotland, to support and promote Circular Economy projects;

- Investigate feasibility of and progress circular economy options for East Lothian, working in partnership, including expanding 'Zero Waste' initiatives into all of East Lothian's communities, for example:
    - Office furniture re-use schemes,
    - Recycle centre where people can swap items ('swap shops'),
    - Repair cafes,
    - Tool share initiatives / tool libraries,
    - Other item share initiatives e.g. gardening equipment share, toy share,
    - Promotion of local community resources / item banks / share schemes,
    - Support skill sharing and learning;

- Work with partners to support and facilitate an increase in Zero Waste hubs across our towns and villages so that local communities can more easily pass on materials no longer needed;

- Work with partners to support the establishment of Repair Cafés / facilities in each village and town, including the provision of storage facilities so that tool shares, toy libraries and household equipment libraries can be hosted;

- Work with partners including Zero Waste Scotland to encourage circular economy business models among East Lothian's businesses.

Key Priority Area 3: Reducing Litter and Plastic Waste

Reduction of plastic waste and litter

We all have a responsibility to tackle the detrimental global impacts of plastics waste. Across East Lothian organisations, groups, businesses and social enterprises already have many projects and initiatives underway to tackle the problems of litter and single-use plastics waste, and are raising awareness of and reducing the reliance on single-use plastics.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian Council's Countryside Rangers lead and support beach cleans across the county's beaches and coastline to highlight and reduce the impacts of marine plastic litter;

- The Council's Amenity Services team in Musselburgh worked with Musselburgh Grammar School and partners on a hugely successful project to reward pupils for picking up litter;

- Musselburgh Area Partnership provided initial funding for 'The Plastics Police' – see Case Study 4.1;

- Following input from the East Lothian-based environmental charity 'Fidra', the Council's Sports Development service has adapted its specification for new 3G sports pitches in East Lothian, and is working with 'Fidra' to pilot mechanisms to reduce microplastic loss from artificial 3G pitches into the environment;

- The Council's Business Gateway has supported local businesses and social enterprises with business models and products based on alternatives to plastics.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Prepare a **Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse** (COPLAR) in order to fulfil the duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to, as far as is practicable, keep land and certain roads clear of litter and refuse. There is an emphasis on the role of prevention, and thus the Code of

CASE STUDY 4.1

'The Plastics Police' (initially funded by Musselburgh Area Partnership) is a group of four schoolboys in Musselburgh who have developed and are selling reusable aluminium waterbottles to reduce reliance on single-use plastic bottles – Leading by example!

Practice aligns with the Climate Change Strategy regarding awareness-raising to change behaviour in order to reduce or eliminate waste, including from our local environment;

- The Council will continue to work with and support our partners, including organisations, local groups and communities, to tackle the blight of litter and plastic waste, and support behaviour-change campaigns;
- Work in partnership with 'Fidra' to reduce microplastic loss from our 3G sports pitches into the environment across East Lothian.

Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 – Climate Action

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Our Ambition and Targets are:

East Lothian will have Scotland's most sustainable and digitally connected local economy, with thriving, low carbon and sustainable businesses and training opportunities, at the heart of vibrant local communities, contributing towards a sustainable, fair and equitable East Lothian.

The move towards a **sustainable and localised economy** will contribute towards reducing the carbon emissions that cause global warming. A thriving localised economy creates local benefits and opportunities, reduces the need to travel, and promotes vibrant and sustainable communities. Energy and resource efficiency are at the core of a sustainable economy, and the Scottish Government promotes the use of sustainable transport, reduction of waste and the move towards a localised and circular economy.

The vision of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan is for a **low carbon, resilient economy**, helping to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, healthier and fairer Scotland.

The Climate Change Plan also recognises the economic opportunities that are likely to arise, including the potential of renewable energy resources. The Plan encourages development of renewable energy projects, creating investment opportunities to deploy renewable energy technologies, innovation and leadership.

Investment in low carbon products and services, opportunities to repurpose oil and gas infrastructure for carbon storage, and sustainable business opportunities contributing towards the transition to a circular economy, will create opportunities for innovation, employment and economic growth.

We will move towards a low carbon, sustainable and localised economy in East Lothian to contribute towards a carbon neutral East Lothian. A thriving localised, digitally-connected economy creates local benefits and opportunities, reduces the need to travel, and promotes vibrant and sustainable communities. Energy and resource efficiency are at the core of a sustainable economy, and we will support Scottish Government aims to promote the use of sustainable transport, reduction of waste and the move towards a localised and circular economy.

A Low Carbon Economy refers to an economy that has a minimal requirement for carbon energy sources and is proposed as a means to prepare for and reduce our exposure to expected future supply problems and associated rising energy costs as well as minimising any impacts of climate change.

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 5:

Key Priority Area 1: Businesses and the Local Economy

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian Council has recently adopted a refreshed East Lothian Economic Development Strategy[45], which sets out strategic objectives to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the future, including **"To become Scotland's most sustainable and digitally-connected local economy"**. A key issue in delivering this objective includes providing a framework for developing new, more sustainable low carbon sectors;
- East Lothian's current sectoral strengths are in Food and Drink, Tourism and Higher Education;
- The Council supports a focus on local employment and local markets, which reduce food miles and encourage low carbon production;

Figure 13: Haddington Farmers' Market

- East Lothian's entrepreneurial culture, skilled workforce, proximity to Edinburgh and its quality of life are key factors encouraging economic growth;
- East Lothian is included in the £1.3 billion Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Interventions of significant importance to East Lothian under the City Region Deal include: a Food and Drink Innovation Campus located at Edinburgh Innovation Park, Queen Margaret University; the new town development at Blindwells,

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[45] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16252/cabinet (Cabinet Paper 02)

which will include business units and a supermarket; and an Integrated Regional Employability and Skills programme, particularly targeting those from disadvantaged groups through the Inclusive Growth agenda;

- Cockenzie, site of the former power station, is now owned by the Council. The masterplan for this site includes outline plans to develop 90,000m^2 of employment space and 3,500 new jobs, generating £66 million for the East Lothian economy;

- The Council successfully developed and implemented an industry-led 'Business Improvement District' for its local food and drink producers[46] – the first of its kind in the world – to support and promote local East Lothian food and drink producing businesses;

- Tourism is a key growth sector of East Lothian's economy, bringing visitors and tourism spend into the county, building on its proximity to Edinburgh and its promotion as 'Edinburgh's Coast and Countryside', and golf, which is estimated to attract 100,000 visitors to East Lothian annually;

- East Lothian's Business Development Gateway encourages new businesses to consider the environment and sustainability in their products, systems, processes, supply chains and distribution;

- The East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 allocates 231ha of employment land (against a strategic requirement of 76ha), in a wide range of sites across the area. This will help attract economic development, and so reduce levels of out-commuting.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Encourage new, more sustainable low carbon sectors including low carbon technologies;

- Encourage and enable low carbon innovation amongst East Lothian's businesses;

- Balance East Lothian's growth aspirations with our outstanding natural environment and quality of life;

- Enhance digital connectivity and ensure maximum coverage of superfast broadband across East Lothian;

- Develop training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors to future-proof our county and our workforce for the technological advances of the future;

- Explore partnership opportunities to work with universities and colleges to train the low carbon workforce of the future;

- Further Education: scope for Blindwells to become a centre of excellence in training the workforce of Scotland's Low Carbon Future;

- Support our local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce reliance on single-use plastics by organising training, support and information provision;

- Promote and encourage businesses in East Lothian to have a sustainability policy with a holistic approach to environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity, resource use, waste and chemical pollution, including specific adaptations to reduce carbon

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[46] https://www.scotlandsfooddrinkcounty.com/about-us/

emissions through their business, supply chains and activities, and how they might be able to support the local community to adapt to the impacts of climate change;

- Work with businesses to promote resource efficiency and sustainability, encouraging low carbon businesses and promoting businesses to be energy and resource efficient, including in their transportation and supply chains;

- Industry: Engage with local industry and work in partnership to support and encourage our local industries and national agencies to reduce emissions from industry, supporting the Scottish Government's targets of:
    o Emissions from the industrial sector to fall by 21% by 2032;
    o Industrial energy efficiency to enable heat recovery and development in low carbon technologies to create business opportunities;

- Agriculture: Engage with farmers and landowners and work in partnership to support and encourage our local agriculture sector and national agencies to reduce emissions from agriculture and promote biodiversity and sustainability, supporting the Scottish Government's targets of:
    o Scotland's agricultural sector to be among the lowest carbon and most efficient food producers in the world, with a 9% emissions reduction target;

- Industry and Agriculture: Explore carbon off-setting projects, including native tree planting (in appropriate locations) and natural habitat restoration, towards achieving our aim of a carbon neutral East Lothian;

- Explore opportunities to develop the Carbon Capture, Utilisation and, potentially, Storage (CCUS) sector in East Lothian;

- Explore options to include a broad consultation of experts, academics and professionals to explore the opportunities that East Lothian has for circular economy and CCUS, highlighting novel technologies that will ensure the sustainability of the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres

East Lothian has many features that can support it becoming Scotland's most sustainable local economy, including distinctive, well-used town centres; a business sectoral profile that aligns with more sustainable sectors; and an excellent environment to enhance work-life balance. Thriving town centres create vibrant local communities and reduce the need to travel, promoting a low carbon East Lothian.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian Council has signed up to the Town Centre First Principle[47], which supports continued investment in local centres to help local communities thrive. This is supported by the Local Development Plan 2018;

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[47] http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/town-centres/TheTownCentreFirstPrinciple

- Over the last 20 years East Lothian Council has made significant investments in its towns delivering and supporting new and improved infrastructure, repairs and improvements to private housing stock, bringing vacant residential and business space back into use, and providing new public facilities such and libraries and schools;
- The Council's Town Centre Strategies Supplementary Guidance[48] and Economic Development Strategy set out frameworks and action plans for vibrant, flourishing town centres and a thriving local economy, reducing the need for people to travel far by car. This is complemented by the East Lothian Local Transport Strategy;
- Improvements in digital connectivity and broadband in East Lothian further reduce the need to travel, and encourage local working and local employment hubs.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will support and promote:

- The Town Centre First Principle to help our communities thrive, enhancing our vibrant centres to promote a local, sustainable, and flourishing low carbon economy;
- Vibrant low carbon local economies that deliver inclusive, low carbon growth and community wealth, sustaining and supporting the creation of local jobs that meet needs of residents;
- Town centre living in high quality, well connected, low carbon affordable homes close to sources of employment, public services, and sustainable and active travel facilities;
- Enterprising communities who can deliver community-led regeneration supporting local people to take responsibility for the economic, social, and environmental action that will make a difference within their communities;
- Well-connected and accessible public services by taking a place-based approach that looks to the long term economic, environmental, and social impacts of decision making;
- Digital towns that have the appropriate future-proofed infrastructure required to enable East Lothian to be the most digitally-connected local economy and communities;
- Proactive planning that encourages mixed use town centre developments that enhance sustainability and resilience through the development of business space, by identifying opportunities for community and social use of premises, and recognising the shift in retail trends and the changing nature of high streets;
- Seek to provide and improve small green areas in town and village centres to allow customers to rest and seek shelter or shade in line with the Green Network Strategy.

Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Businesses

We will support local businesses to prepare for and adapt to climate change, to ensure business continuity in the supply chain, production and distribution, and we will encourage businesses to participate in local climate resilience preparation to benefit our communities.

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[48] East Lothian Town Centre Strategies Supplementary Planning Guidance
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16411/members_library_service (Report 20/19)

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with partners including Scottish Enterprise and Adaptation Scotland to support businesses to be climate change ready;

- Encourage and support local businesses to put into place 'Business Continuity Plans', to identify and take action to address potential impacts on their systems, processes, supply chains and distribution, to help to reduce business disruption and impacts on productivity and sales due to climate change impacts;

- Explore opportunities to work with the agriculture sector to encourage greater local food production, developing local supply chains from farm to local shops, to aid climate resilience;

- Engage local businesses with East Lothian's 'Resilient Communities' initiative and the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Planning, to identify where they can provide support for our local communities in times of hardship due to climate and severe weather impacts, to increase preparedness and resilience;

- Encourage businesses to ensure their premises (buildings and infrastructure) are adapted for climate change impacts.

Detailed Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 – Climate Action

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral

Our Ambition and Targets are:

East Lothian will have healthy, diverse natural ecosystems and greenspaces that support biodiversity and the wellbeing of our communities, functioning to off-set carbon emissions; a key force in achieving a Carbon Neutral East Lothian and adapting to climate change, and resilient to changes in climatic conditions.

We are in an Ecological Emergency. Global loss of natural habitats and human-attributed threats including climate change are contributing to an ecological catastrophe and loss of biodiversity on an unprecedented scale. The recent 'State of Nature 2019' report for Scotland[49] shows that Scotland's nature has continued to decline, with species declining in abundance and distribution. We all have a responsibility to halt this decline and do everything we can to protect and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity.

Restoring biodiversity and ecosystems will also assist with carbon capture and storage. Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions report[50] shows that all sectors are net carbon emitters with the exception of Woodland / Forestry, which is a net absorber of carbon dioxide, contributing to -9.5 $MtCO_2e$ absorbed from the atmosphere in 2017. Woodland expansion will make a positive contribution to regional carbon sequestration and national climate change targets[51]. Woodlands, peatlands and saltmarsh in particular store vast quantities

> **Carbon sequestration** is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

of carbon, preventing its release into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide provided these natural habitats remain in good condition. Restoration of degraded peatland has been shown to contribute to annual carbon sequestration of up to -19 tCO_2e per hectare[52]. The Scottish Government's aim is that the 'Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry' sector will increasingly act as a net carbon sink and that by 2032 woodland cover will increase from around 18% to 21% of Scotland's land area.

These objectives will also have significant implications for protecting and restoring these natural habitats and biodiversity, and will make a significant contribution towards making East Lothian carbon neutral.

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[49] https://www.nature.scot/state-nature-scotland-report-2019
[50] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2016/pages/3/
[51] https://www2.gov.scot/seag/seagDocs/SEA-00501/12598.pdf
[52] https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Reducing-emissions-in-Scotland-2018-Progress-Report-to-Parliament.pdf

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- Nature conservation, wildlife protection, enhancing biodiversity and natural habitats and public engagement have been the core work at the heart of the Council's Countryside Service and our Countryside Ranger Service for many decades;

- The Council's countryside management systems have direct implications for mitigating climate change, by conserving and restoring natural grassland, woodland and saltmarsh;

- The Council manages 80% (47 km) of East Lothian's coast, with extensive focus given towards the sustainable management of the coastline, helping to ensure that we meet our statutory duty as a public body to conserve biodiversity;

- On East Lothian's coast, our adaptive management and working with natural processes along our coastal sites have evolved over many years with key functions in alleviating tidal storm-surge inundation;

- In 2019 we planted over 30,000m^2 of wildflower meadows across the county;

- With our local communities we have planted hundreds of trees around the county;

- Aberlady Bay, designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1952, is managed by the Council; the reserve includes areas of saltmarsh, important for carbon sequestration;

> **Biodiversity**
> is the variety of plant and animal life, including terrestrial, marine and aquatic life, and the links between species and their ecosystems.
>
> **Ecosystems**
> are the communities of plants and animals in an area and how they interact with each other and with the environment.

- A 'carbon audit' study in 2010 identified that John Muir Country Park (which is managed by the Council) had potential to consolidate its carbon sources and reduce its carbon footprint[53,] and several of the recommendations have now been implemented;

- Conservation grazing at some of our 31 countryside sites has resulted in improvement in grassland quality;

- The Council has converted areas of amenity grassland in urban areas into 'wildflower areas', in some areas for over 15 years. These have become an important habitat and permanent feature for urban wildlife, benefitting both wildlife and people;

- We have an extensive track record on control of invasive non-native plant species, including giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed, and we have developed best practice for control of the non-native plant pirri pirri burr;

- In East Lothian the natural environment is inextricably interlinked with the Historic Environment; our Historic Environment, including mill lades and weirs, designed landscapes and historic boundaries (e.g. hedges, dry stane dykes) form important components of our green and blue networks for enhancing biodiversity and natural habitats. We preserve Scheduled Monuments as green space within new developments; these are often enhanced as wildflower meadows;

- The East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 includes policies to protect biodiversity (including the designation for the first time of Local Biodiversity Sites) and carbon rich soils, including peat;

- The Council's Green Network Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance includes actions to provide a nature network to support wildlife recovery, and supports the identification of sites for woodland and tree planting, or peatland or saltmarsh

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[53] Source: East Lothian Council's Carbon Audit of John Muir Country Park (2010)

restoration, to enable the benefits of businesses choosing to offset carbon and air pollution to be kept within East Lothian.

Figure 14: Saltmarsh at John Muir Country Park, an important habitat for carbon storage

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 6:

Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity

East Lothian's natural environment will be healthy and resilient, functioning to off-set carbon emissions. Our biodiversity will be protected and wildlife will be encouraged.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Expand native tree planting (in appropriate locations) to support the Scottish Government's aim of 20% carbon sink by 2032, by embarking on an ambitious programme to plant native trees across East Lothian;
- Retain trees where possible, and require replacement planting of trees that are lost to development in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy and the East Lothian Local Development Plan; report cases of felling of trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders to the Procurator Fiscal;
- Prepare a Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian, as required by Scotland's new planning act;
- Plant 40,000m^2 of wildflower meadows in East Lothian each year to improve biodiversity and increase pollination, working with partners to develop and increase wildflower areas in other Council and privately owned greenspaces;
- Implement the Council's Green Network Strategy;

- Produce an updated Local Biodiversity Action Plan to tackle the Ecological Emergency, with a focus on priority species and habitats, and considering habitat connectivity, climate change and the built environment;

- The LBAP will build in actions relating to tree planting, greenspace management (including wildflowers and grass cutting schedules), road verge management, and developing the guidance available to developers through the Planning Service. There will be a strong focus on working with partners, including farmers, landowners, third sector organisations and other statutory organisations;

- Naturalise 10% of amenity grassland to enhance local biodiversity, improve natural habitats and support wildlife. This links to our proposal for increased wildflower meadow creation and the existing grassland management undertaken by East Lothian Council's Countryside Ranger Service;

- Continue to manage terrestrial habitats across our 31 countryside sites, to enhance the natural habitats, conserve wildlife species and ecosystems and manage visitors sustainably, to ensure that these habitats are in better condition, and will function more optimally in carbon storage and off-setting carbon emissions as a key aspect of mitigating against climate change;

- East Lothian Council's Countryside Ranger Service to interpret / educate / raise awareness of climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration as part of their remit;

- Work with farmers and landowners to create wildlife corridors and wildflower areas, and to encourage them to undertake habitat restoration and develop strategies for upstream flood prevention and carbon sequestration through rewilding of upland areas and peatland and saltmarsh restoration, working with national agencies;

- Ensure that our Historic Environment (e.g. protected Scheduled Monuments) continues to contribute to our green and blue networks and enhance biodiversity;

- Continue to work with our partners to look after East Lothian's beaches and inshore waters around our coast, helping to conserve the coastal environment, manage visitors sustainably and protect fragile coastal habitats that function in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- Work closely in partnership with local groups, organisations and individuals who assist with regular Beach Cleans, removing litter from our beaches, particularly plastic waste washed up from the sea;

- Apply regulations requiring Habitat Regulation Appraisal for projects affecting Natura 2000 sites;

- Ensure new development protects and enhances the water environment (East Lothian Local Development Plan Policy NH9).

The Council manages many of the most popular countryside sites in East Lothian, including John Muir Country Park, named in honour of the pioneer of nature conservation John Muir, who was born in Dunbar in 1838.

CASE STUDY 6.1

East Lothian Council's Countryside Services set up a network of East Lothian Countryside Volunteers, who gave 9,322 hours of voluntary work in 2017/18, helping to conserve our important natural environment and wildlife species.

East Lothian Junior Rangers

Key Priority Area 2: Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment

A productive, healthy and diverse natural environment has a key role in climate change adaptation, for example in coastal and river flood protection. Trees, plants and soil are critical in absorbing and retaining rainfall, helping to avoid flooding.

Adapting to climate change and preserving important ecological functions requires a combination of building resilience and accommodating change. Climate change may affect the balance of ecosystems, impact on the range of our native species, and enable invasive non-native species to thrive.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Manage countryside sites under the Council's management to adapt to climate change, including designated sites such as Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve and John Muir Country Park, through reviewing Management Plans to assess the impact of climate change and taking action;

- Undertake natural coastal protection through adaptive management and working with natural processes along East Lothian's coastal sites, including 'planned retreat' for the coastline and saltmarsh evolution allowing natural development of dune systems, to alleviate tidal storm-surge inundation on the coast. Coastal habitats such as saltmarshes and mudflats can absorb and diffuse the impact of extreme high tides and storm surges, and reduce damage to coastal areas at greater risk;

- Progress natural river flood protection measures by improving natural riverine habitats, including freshwater marshland and wetlands. The Haddington Flood Protection Study is currently looking into natural flood management i.e. floodwater storage on farmland adjacent to rivers;

- Continue to control invasive species;

- Implement the climate change adaptation measures for new developments as set out in East Lothian's Green Network Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance, including:

  - Natural Green Network assets such as riverine areas and the coast should be taken into account when planning defences against flood or erosion;

  - Landscaping and tree planting should take into consideration how the changing climate will affect new developments as well as the impact of the scheme on climate change. Plants should be chosen to survive the future climate. A mixture of native species is likely to be more resilient to a range of new pests/pathogens that may occur as a result of climate change. Planting can be used as windbreaks to provide shelter or to reduce energy consumption of buildings;

  - Work with landowners, farmers and homeowners to promote best practice in management of their green infrastructure assets for climate adaptation e.g. timing and direction of ploughing, planting tree belts and wildlife corridors, enhancing private gardens.

The detailed Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 13 – Climate Action;   SDG 14 – Life below Water;   SDG 15 – Life on Land

Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change

Our Ambition and Targets are:

- **East Lothian will be a place which supports and encourages the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and reduces inequalities in our communities, by promoting and raising awareness of active and sustainable travel, green and blue networks, local food growing, outdoor play, local amenities, low carbon and renewable energy and zero waste; where people are supported to reduce their own carbon footprint;**

- **East Lothian's communities will be prepared for and adapted to the effects of climate change, and resilient to further changes in the future.**

The 2018 IPCC report[54] makes it clear that achieving a drastic reduction in global carbon emissions will require **"rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society".** This means changes to our lifestyles, including the way we move around, obtain food and other produce, and where and how we work. It means looking at what we can change about our existing communities to facilitate and encourage these changes, and how we lay out new housing and other new developments; and working together in partnership with local people to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit, reducing inequalities and enhancing quality of life.

As well as reducing emissions and its effect on global warming, this will have far-reaching, **wider benefits to our communities and society**. These include improving health, wellbeing and physical activity, improving social cohesion, reducing social isolation, improving air quality, enhancing the 'sense of place' in our communities, and creating a place for wildlife and nature to thrive alongside us.

The Council will work together in partnership with local communities to facilitate and encourage the changes in lifestyle that will enable East Lothian to become a Carbon Neutral county. East Lothian already has a strong framework in place, underpinned by existing Council strategies and work already underway by local organisations.

> **A Low Carbon Lifestyle** refers to the choices that each of us can make in our daily lives, that will contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions, and therefore will help to reduce global warming. This includes the way we travel, the food we eat, reducing, re-using and recycling our waste, where we work or shop, and how we heat and power our homes and businesses.

This strategy identifies key priority areas to help meet Outcome 7:

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[54] https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking

Placemaking[55] can encourage our communities to achieve a low carbon lifestyle and help them to adapt to the impacts and challenges of a changing climate. This includes:

- **Green networks and blue infrastructure** (streams and waterways), greenspaces, urban planting and woodland creation all support and encourage healthy, active, outdoor lifestyles, encourage wildlife, and provide important roles in carbon reduction and sequestration[56]. Well-connected, high quality greenspaces are important to people's health and wellbeing, biodiversity and food security, and to our local environment, communities and economy, as well as encouraging a low carbon lifestyle. They also play a valuable role in mitigating climate change by:
    - Providing opportunities for active and sustainable travel, allotments and other community growing schemes, which enable people to grow their own food locally so potentially reducing indirect carbon emissions;
    - Regulate local climate, reducing the 'urban heat island' effect;
    - Encourage people not to travel for recreation by bringing nature into town – and bringing people closer to nature.

- **Paths and active travel infrastructure** prioritise walking or cycling, making it more attractive and quicker for local journeys than taking the car, with health and air quality benefits, as well as contributing to reducing carbon emissions;

- **Allotments and local food growing areas** foster community involvement and interaction, and are beneficial to health and wellbeing and climate adaptation, linked to addressing food poverty and health inequalities;

- **Gardens, parks and open space** help us to connect with nature and enjoy being outdoors, with the health and wellbeing benefits this brings, as well as having important functions in carbon storage and climate change adaptation.

- **Locating amenities, shops and places of employment** close to where people live, to reduce the need to travel;

The Council will help to ensure the infrastructure is in place to enable these everyday changes to be made, and will help to promote behaviour change to encourage people to think about their daily choices and their impacts.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian's Area Partnerships are delivering actions through their local Area Plans to improve our local communities for the future, including improving and promoting active travel, producing illustrated maps to raise awareness of path networks, tree planting, greenspaces and sustainable development, to create vibrant and inclusive local communities;

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[55] "Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalises on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being" (source: Wikipedia)

[56] 'Carbon sequestration' is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

- The Council's approach takes a holistic approach to improve our town centres, helping ensure they continue to thrive whilst supporting low carbon lifestyles and assisting with the transition to a carbon neutral East Lothian;

- Planning policy has protected the vitality and vibrancy of town centres, and protected and enhanced East Lothian's Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings;

- A priority outcome of the Council's East Lothian Local Housing Strategy[57] is: *"Sustainable and vibrant communities are created and maintained".* This is being achieved by the delivery of quality sustainable housing, particularly in towns and existing rural settlements, including bringing empty town centre properties back into use, where appropriate, for affordable housing, and by supporting community led regeneration;

- The Council's East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018[58] sets out the ambition that everyone living in East Lothian should have local access to attractive, good quality parks, sports pitches and play areas, and local connections to the Green Network, providing access to the countryside along a well-designed network of accessible path routes. These have particular importance for climate change mitigation, and encourage a low carbon lifestyle;

- The Council has worked in partnership with local groups to plant nearly 1000 urban trees over the past six years in our towns and villages. These have important functions not only in enhancing the amenity value and sense of place in our communities, but also have crucial roles in reducing carbon emissions by carbon sequestration, local cooling by creating shade, and helping to absorb traffic pollution;

- The Council's Amenity Services have undertaken enhancements to our parks and greenspaces for many years, working in partnership with local 'Friends Of' and 'In Bloom' groups, and received the Wright Sustainability Award at the Beautiful Scotland 2018 Awards, celebrating the sustainable planting displays, including wildflower planting, reducing seasonal bedding and utilising hardy species throughout the region.

Figure 15: Green network in the urban landscape, Dunbar

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[57] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210550/housing/12398/local_housing_strategy_and_investment/1

[58] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16252/cabinet (Cabinet Paper 03)

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Work with partners to support our communities towards becoming Net Zero Carbon, including enabling community initiatives for carbon cuts, sequestration and adaptation;

- Prioritise and enhance green networks, walking and cycling routes, local food growing areas and allotments in our towns, rural areas and new developments through the Planning process, locally delegated budgets and working with partners;

- Prioritise path network connectivity for walking and cycling, including both active travel routes and local recreational paths / path circuits close to where people live;

- Plant more trees and hedgerows in urban areas and enhance green networks in and around our communities;

- Deliver quality sustainable housing on appropriate town centre sites and in rural areas, including bringing empty town centre properties back into use, where appropriate, for affordable housing, and by supporting community led regeneration;

- Support and promote innovations including local decarbonised heat networks and energy efficiency schemes in local communities as well as smart energy initiatives, circular economy projects and other community and social enterprises;

- Continue to deliver the sustainable management of our open spaces and green spaces, and work closely in partnership with local community groups, such as the award-winning 'In Bloom' groups, to improve local communities;

- Support thriving town centres that provide amenities locally, reducing the need to travel and encouraging sustainability and a low carbon ethos;

- Support community initiatives such as cooking classes, community kitchens, community entertainment to reduce the need to travel for leisure and support vibrant and sustainable communities; these initiatives also help address food poverty, health inequalities and social isolation;

- Prioritise 'wild' areas and manage spaces for nature to encourage and enhance biodiversity (e.g. wildflower areas) – these also function in climate adaptation such as reducing floodwater run-off, and there is an opportunity to link these with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) areas. We will investigate opportunities for innovation including green roofs and green walls for buildings;

- Work with partners to promote sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of local sporting activities in our communities;

- Undertake a campaign to encourage homeowners not to replace garden ground with hard-standing;

- Take opportunities to improve water management, including rainwater harvesting and grey water harvesting, and creation and enhancement of wetland/marshland/reedbed areas and other blue infrastructure for both carbon off-setting and natural flood management;

- Produce updated local maps to reflect expanding communities due to new housebuilding, highlighting the path network and promoting active and sustainable travel. Include in 'welcome pack' of information for new residents.

Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments

The Planning System is guided by Scotland's National Planning Framework 3[59] and provides a framework to support and encourage low carbon lifestyles and the transition needed to achieve decarbonisation. A key element is to reduce the need to travel for everyday activities through suitable place design, and redesign, and support for development of local employment and leisure opportunities.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- The Council's East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018[60] and supplementary planning guidance set out a framework to support and encourage low carbon lifestyles and the transition needed to achieve decarbonisation. Planners actively seek provision where necessary of green networks, paths, active travel routes, open space and Sustainable Drainage Systems in new housing developments;

- The East Lothian LDP specifically addresses climate change and the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and low carbon economy by:
  - o Creation of mixed use areas, to reduce the need to travel (and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions from traffic), by allocating sites for new housing development near existing or proposed employment locations and facilities, including local services and schools;
  - o Inclusion of policies on green networks, open space, play space and allotments;
  - o Choosing locations for new development which will generate the least need to travel by private car.

- The Council's Green Networks Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance sets out a vision for a connected green network in East Lothian that contributes to the Central Scotland Green Network, including:
  - o A place for encouraging business growth, increasing community spirit and activities, enhancing active travel, recreation and healthy living;
  - o How green networks can create a place in balance, adapting to and mitigating climate change;

- As of September 2019, the Council added a Planning Condition to all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points;

- Water management by means of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which provide multi-functional benefits including storing and re-using surface water, thus reducing the risk of surface water flooding and improving water quality. SuDS are now a legal requirement for new developments therefore are routinely constructed in East Lothian developments. Retrofitted SuDS in

Benefits of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

· Reduced flood risk
· Improved air quality
· Improved water quality
· Dispersal of pollutants
· Increased biodiversity
· Attractive environment

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[59] NPF3: https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00453683.pdf

[60] https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13023/local_development_plan_2018

urban areas can address flood risk whilst allowing for future modification to cope with climate and other changes. Adopted guidance on sustainable drainage systems aims to ensure that new developments accommodate and store water on site arising from localised flood events.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Incorporate a requirement for new development to demonstrate how it will address its carbon footprint;
- Enforce the Planning Condition for all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points;
- Work with the Scottish Government to seek guidance on embedding the Just Transition to Net Zero into the planning process through our next Local Development Plan;
- Prepare and implement Design Standards for New Housing Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance to focus on sustainability measures to reduce carbon emissions from new developments, passive solar gain and moving away from car dependency to more sustainable forms of transport in new housing developments;
- Incorporate key elements of the Design Standards for New Housing Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance into the Local Development Plan (LDP). This is to set out the importance of designing new housing areas which connect people to a healthy, outdoor lifestyle on their doorstep, encourages active travel and outdoor play, with green networks and multi-generational open spaces to encourage community interaction, and reduces the dominance of the car;
- Develop East Lothian's aspiration to progress a new town at Blindwells as an exemplary Net Zero town of the future, including by pursuing low carbon heating from the groundwater heat source from our coalfields, and a Climate Resilient new town that is adapted for future climate change impacts. The Council's vision is:
  - o To see the new settlement develop into an exemplar community in which to live, work and play;
  - o A zero emissions community embracing climate change objectives pushing construction and technology innovation and embracing blue green infrastructure and biodiversity;
  - o Significant wider improvements to local infrastructure, which include providing more choices for walking, cycling and travelling by public transport.
- Investigate the opportunity to include a policy requirement for developments to plant native woodland to mitigate against climate change and off-set emissions;
- Evaluate our next LDP with a view to achieving the Net Zero Carbon emissions target by assessing development location in relation to transport, preventing loss of trees and topsoil areas, and woodland planting proposals linked to development;
- Continue to implement the legal requirement for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new developments;

- Work with partners to ensure provision of food growing space / community gardens in new residential developments; and that each new home has suitable garden ground for food growing.

Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing

Allotments and community gardens have the potential to contribute to the sustainability of a community and the move to a low carbon lifestyle to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. Locally grown produce reduces travel and transport needs thus reducing emissions. Local food growing projects help reduce inequalities and help to alleviate food poverty. They provide practical solutions for growing your own food near to where people live and providing a healthy diet, improving local green space and green network connectivity, fostering community engagement, intergenerational enjoyment of the outdoors and physical activity, and function in increasing community resilience. There are a number of local community food growing projects underway across East Lothian (see Case Study 7.1).

CASE STUDIES 7.1

Local Food Growing Projects in East Lothian:

Roots & Fruits Growing Project, Prestonpans

The Ridge project, Dunbar

Ormiston Grows project

East Linton Heritage Orchard

Belhaven Community Garden, in the grounds of Belhaven Hospital

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- East Lothian has a number of traditional allotment sites under the ownership of the Council, some of which are leased to and run by an Association;
- Our Local Development Plan has policies on Allotment Provision (Policy OS5) and Allotment Sites (PROP OS6) for new developments and developers are encouraged to include allotments in their proposals.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Prepare a Local Food Growing Strategy in response to the requirements of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This will set out the framework for the Council's involvement in assisting and encouraging East Lothian's communities to develop local food growing projects, with implications for reducing carbon emissions and climate change adaptation;
- Investigate options for working in partnership with our communities to bring areas of suitable urban land into use for local food growing, including private gardens and vacant land;
- Increase the number of sites available for allotments and/or community growing spaces in each village and town where possible and where there is demand;
- Support and encourage local food growing and wildlife gardening/rewilding;

- Investigate opportunities to provide food growing spaces with smaller plots and greater turnaround time; identify unused growing spaces, use of fallow gardens with produce sharing agreements, tool libraries and refurbishment schemes;
- Work with partners to investigate opportunities for implementing a distribution network for surplus food growing production. This is linked to the new Food Friendly East Lothian network.

Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement

Changing Behaviour towards a Low Carbon Lifestyle

The Scottish Government has set out how individuals can be influenced to change their daily behaviours to move towards a more '**low carbon lifestyle**'[61], and has set up the '**Greener Scotland**'[62] website to provide a one-stop-shop of information, resources and advice on how people can incorporate low carbon behaviours into their daily lives, including helping households to: *"save energy, reduce waste, travel smarter and eat greener".*

The most recent Scottish Household Survey reveals that awareness levels among adults in East Lothian of Climate Change as an immediate and urgent problem (74% in 2018) is above the Scottish average (see Figure 16).

A high percentage of adults in East Lothian strongly agree / agree with the statement: "I understand what actions people like myself should take to help tackle climate change" (see Figure 17).

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[61] https://www.gov.scot/publications/low-carbon-scotland-behaviours-framework/

[62] http://www.greenerscotland.org/

Figure 16: **Percentage of adults who think climate change is an immediate and urgent problem: East Lothian**

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018
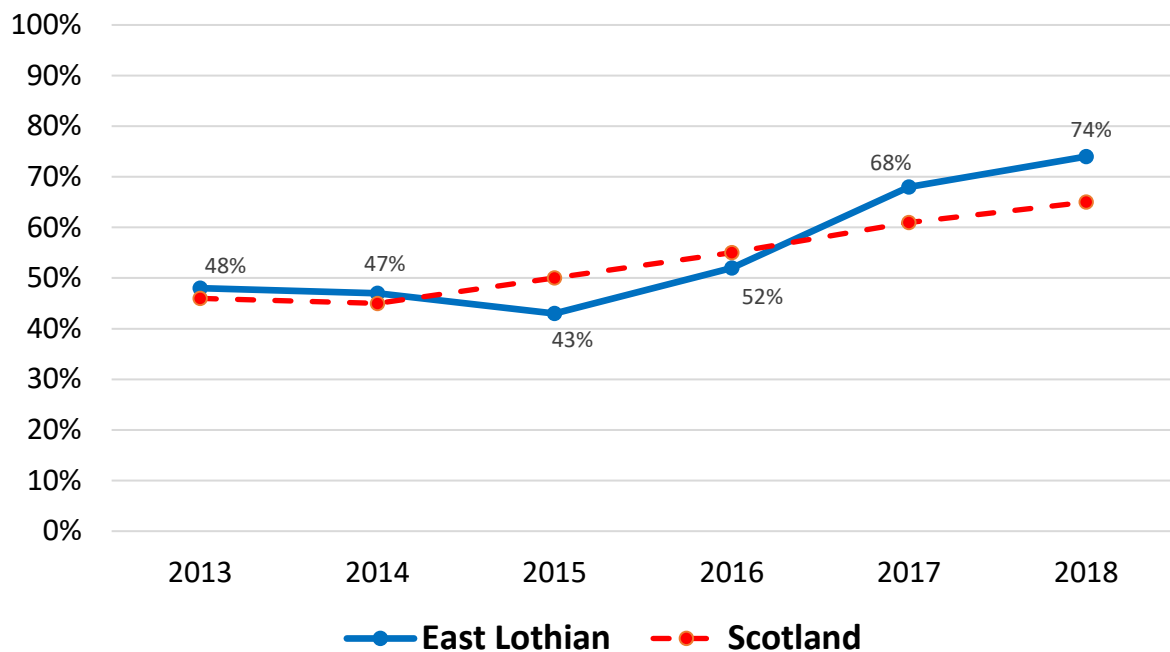
Figure 17: **Percentage of adults in East Lothian who agree or disagree with the statement: "I understand what actions people like myself should take to help tackle climate change"**

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018
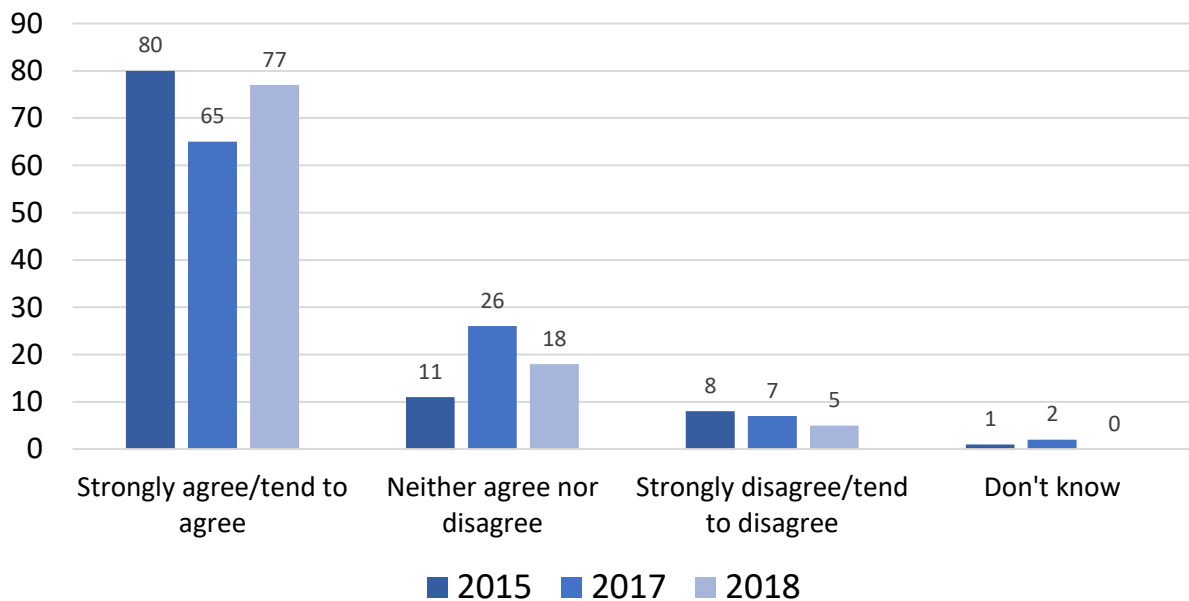
East Lothian Council will support our communities to:

- Take action locally and support the Council in its efforts – none of us can do this alone and we all need to play our part;
- Use active and sustainable travel;
- Improve home energy efficiency;
- Shop locally;
- Grow healthy food locally;
- Prepare for and respond to climate change risks and impacts;
- Reduce, reuse, recycle waste and reduce food waste;
- Help create greenspaces for wildlife and people;
- Support volunteering in our communities.

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- The Council's declaration of Climate Emergency (August 2019) has engaged the public;
- The Council undertook a series of public drop-in events around the county in September – October 2018 as part of the development of the Climate Change Strategy, to engage with and hear the views of local people on tackling climate change locally. The events included awareness-raising and information provision;
- The Council takes part in Scotland's annual national 'Climate Week', and in 2019 we ran a social media campaign during Climate Week around the theme of **#make a difference**, highlighting what the Council does and what individuals / householders can do to tackle climate change;
- Our Waste Services team runs awareness raising and outreach projects in our communities and schools to promote waste reduction and recycling;
- Our Countryside Ranger Service promotes environmental awareness through their work and social media;
- We are engaging with young people on tackling climate change locally, through our survey for children and young people undertaken in 2019 which had 116 responses (see Supporting Document 1), the East Lothian Youth Council, and Eco-Schools programme;
- The Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer gave a presentation on 'Climate Ready Communities: Adapting to Climate Change Impacts in East Lothian' at the Resilient Communities event in October 2019;
- We have been engaged with active and sustainable travel behaviour change projects for several years, including 'East Lothian on the Move' and 'Beat the Streets';
- East Lothian's Area Partnerships have supported and funded active and sustainable travel projects and promotion;
- 'Bikeability' training has been delivered in schools across our communities to encourage more children to cycle, by building confidence and improving 'road sense'.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Explore options to identify how best to engage and ensure representation across all sectors of East Lothian's community, to involve our communities in the local planning of our Climate Emergency Response (e.g. Citizens' Assembly; Climate Change Forum);

- Produce a Communications Plan setting out our awareness-raising and engagement proposals;

- Develop an East Lothian Climate Change Charter, based around the theme of **#makeadifference**, setting out what the Council will do and what communities / individuals can do to tackle climate change and reduce emissions;

- Support and help to promote national campaigns, including the Scottish Government's 'Greener Scotland' campaign, to reduce food waste, improve the energy efficiency of our homes, eat less red meat in our diets, take fewer flights, travel by active and sustainable means, and consider the carbon footprint of our everyday lifestyle and behaviour choices;

- Work in partnership with Community Councils, Area Partnerships, Tenants and Residents Associations and other local groups and organisations to encourage and assist all areas of East Lothian to become involved in taking forward sustainability and promoting a low carbon lifestyle in their local area;

- Set up a network of 'Green Champions' in our communities to help promote sustainability, raise awareness and encourage engagement with the move to a low carbon lifestyle;

- Set up a dedicated page on the Council's website to function as a central information point for directing people to information on the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and a Net Zero East Lothian;

- Undertake an awareness raising campaign to promote tackling climate change, reducing emissions and how everyone can **#makeadifference**; including information provision and promoting behaviour change.

Key Priority Area 5: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Communities

> "No single organisation, business or community can adapt to climate change alone. We are all dependent on and influenced by the decisions of others and need to work together to adapt."
>
> From The Scottish Government's 'Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme' (2014)

Our communities will often be in the front line in responding to the impacts of climate change. East Lothian Council will work together with partner agencies and our community partners, including Community Councils and local Area Partnerships, to lead the community response to climate change.

Resilient Communities:

East Lothian Council's Key Achievements:

- The Council has been engaged with a Resilient Communities initiative since 2014, which has targeted all of East Lothian's 20 Community Councils, several Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) and Area Partnership groups. The initiative highlights what our communities can do for themselves whilst working with the Council at times when unexpected events occur impacting on their daily lives;

- The Council has encouraged each Community Council to identify a Single Point of Contact and deputy who will be responsible for liaising with the Council, both during 'normal' times and also times when an unexpected risk occurs and their needs can be quickly known and dealt with in the best way the Council can provide;

> Resilient Communities have the ability to recover quickly from adverse situations, such as those anticipated with a changing climate. They can do this by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social and environmental changes. When times are difficult, the community can call upon the numerous resources they have to pull together and bounce back.

- Community Councils and TRAs have also been encouraged to create their own Emergency Response/Asset plans with the assistance of the Council;

- 'Resilient Communities Workshop' events have been held for the past 3 years, the most recent in Musselburgh in October 2019, to discuss best practice, share information and highlight/promote Resilient Communities. The workshop was hosted by the Council and involved local community representatives, responder agency personnel, representatives from the voluntary sector and Council staff. The Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer gave a presentation on 'Climate Ready Communities: Adapting to Climate Change Impacts in East Lothian' at the Resilient Communities event in October 2019.

During the 5 years of this Strategy East Lothian Council will:

- Lead partnership work with our communities and partner agencies to prepare for and adapt to the serious impacts of climate change, and assist our communities to prepare **Climate Ready Response Plans**. This includes tackling '**Climate Justice**' and ensuring that people of all backgrounds and abilities are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change;

- The Council will work in partnership with local employers, landowners, voluntary groups, and community planning partners including Emergency Responders, to ensure that adaptation actions are tailored effectively to the localised impacts of climate change;

- The Council will build capacity and take action in response to the risks and opportunities that East Lothian faces as a result of changes in our climate.

Flood Risk Management:

Flood risk management responsibilities

- The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is Scotland's national flood forecasting and flood warning authority, with a duty to provide flood risk advice to land use planning. SEPA operates flood warning schemes, including in East Lothian.

- The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining the flood protection actions. The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 places responsibilities on local authorities to reduce overall flood risk and promote sustainable flood risk management.

- Property and business owners can take steps themselves to reduce damage and disruption to their homes and businesses from flooding. This includes preparing a flood plan or Business Continuity Plan and flood kit, installing property level protection, signing up to Floodline and Resilient Communities Initiatives, and ensuring that properties and businesses are insured against flood damage.

The **Flood Risk Management Strategy** has been developed to reduce the damage and distress caused by flooding. It provides the information needed by local authorities to take action to manage flood risks.

Areas in East Lothian that are Potentially Vulnerable to Flooding:
· Musselburgh
· Cockenzie & Port Seton
· Longniddry
· Prestonpans
· Haddington
· Dunbar
· West Barns

Flooding in Haddington

Figure 18: Flooded road in the Lammermuir Hills near Oldhamstocks

Actions to reduce flood risk
The **Local Flood Risk Management Plan** describes the actions to avoid and reduce the risk of flooding, and prepare and protect our communities.

- The Council is currently progressing the actions in the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. These include flood protection schemes and works, flood protection studies, surface water management plans, and natural flood management studies and works.

Flood Protection Schemes currently underway in East Lothian are:
- **Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme**, which aspires to deliver a level of protection from all sources of flooding, including from the River Esk, plus allowance for climate change. The scheme has incorporated the possibilities for natural flood management solutions, subject to the scheme's study on it, and includes protection from the effects of rising sea levels. A detailed delivery programme will be developed after detailed designs have been drawn up.

- **Haddington Flood Protection Scheme**, to reduce flood risk from the River Tyne. The scheme is at the early stages of development, and would consist of flood defences, possibly in combination with natural flood management.

- **Existing Coastal Flood Defences** will continue to be maintained by the Council along East Lothian's coast.

Community Flood Action Groups involve the community and their local expertise and knowledge in area-specific issues and could help increase community resilience to flooding. Groups have been identified across East Lothian.

Flood Storage involves designing areas to deliberately flood in order to store or redirect floodwater. Allowing areas such as parkland, sports fields, road spaces, or below ground spaces to flood can prevent the flooding of more vulnerable land uses. At present, this option may be under-utilised in East Lothian. Potentially areas of open space could be designed to flood to reduce the risk to built-up areas.

Actions to achieve this Outcome are set out in the Action Plan.

These actions will contribute towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
SDG 13 – Climate Action
SDG 15 – Life on Land

8. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been set up which outlines the key indicators and targets for the Climate Change Strategy 2020–25. A formal review of progress in relation to Climate Change Strategy outcomes will take place annually, with the monitoring framework enabling the impact of progress in relation to Climate Change Strategy actions to be measured against key indicators. The action plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

Annual Climate Change Strategy progress reviews will be carried out by the Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group. Annual progress updates will be reported to Cabinet.

9. Action Plan for East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

The Climate Change Strategy will be implemented through the Action Plan, which provides the objectives and associated actions that will achieve the Outcomes over the 5 years of this Strategy. The Action Plan identifies tasks to be achieved, the links to other relevant Council strategies and plans, and the lead person / service who will be responsible for progressing the actions. The Action Plan has been created to be undertaken over a 5 year period but will require updating as changes occur.

The actions in the Action Plan link to East Lothian Council's **Council Plan Indicators** as set out in the Strategic Performance Monitoring Framework.

The Climate Change Strategy will deliver Council Plan Indicator 39 in particular:

Growing our Communities: *'Work closely with partners to meet our commitments to Climate Change targets'*.

The Climate Change Strategy links to indicators for Service Areas across the Council, and links to actions and targets from relevant strategies and plans across Service Areas. The Climate Change Strategy Action Plan brings these together into one place to set out how Climate Change mitigation and adaptation targets will be delivered.

[continued]

Five-year Action Plan for East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council							
Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 1: Leadership and Governance							
1.1a	Work with all Council Service Areas and key partners including the Scottish Government to improve the integrity of our emissions data and reporting mechanisms, and reduce carbon emissions annually, to reach Net Zero by 2045 at the latest	Climate Change Strategy; ELC Climate Change Reporting	Chief Executive; CCPMG[63]; partners including Scottish Government	Annual Climate Change Reporting to the Scottish Government: East Lothian Council's total annual corporate emissions	44,034 tCO_2e in 2007/08	Continue to reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually
1.1b	Embed our aims to tackle the Climate Emergency and to achieve emission reductions within our Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan)	Council Plan; East Lothian Plan	Policy Team; SECCO[64]	Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan)	Outcomes under East Lothian Plan 2017–2027	Key targets within the Council Plan	2020
1.1c	Annual reporting on East Lothian's overall Per Capita Carbon Emissions, within the scope of local authorities[65]	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; CCPMG	Data published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change (tCO_2e) for all UK local authority areas	Baseline data 5.2 tCO_2e (2016/17)	Decreasing annual per capita carbon emissions	Annually

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[63] Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group
[64] Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer
[65] This data is published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change in June each year; there is always a two year lag in the data

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
1.1d	Staff awareness and engagement: Reinstate the promotional campaign 'CRAW' ('Conserve Resources at Work'), or similar, to raise awareness amongst staff – including promotional measures and publicity (articles and updates in staff newsletter 'Inform')	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG			Increased awareness	2020 / ongoing
1.1e	Ensure that training in carbon efficiency behaviours is provided to all new Council employees via the staff Induction process, to instill the low carbon culture of East Lothian Council	Staff Induction process	Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Introduction of Induction training in carbon efficiency behaviours for all new staff		Induction training in carbon efficiency behaviours is in place	2021
1.1f	Inclusion of a new mandatory e-learning module on reducing your carbon footprint, for all Council employees; explore options to make this available to community / third sector organisations, via the wider e-learning platform		Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Production of e-learning module on reducing your carbon footprint		E-learning module on reducing your carbon footprint in place	2021
1.1g	Work with our partner organisations to encourage them to take urgent action to reduce their own carbon footprint; add this requirement to the terms and conditions associated with grants awarded by the Council, Area Partnerships, procurement contracts etc.	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG				2020 / ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 2: Embedding Sustainability and ensuring a Just Transition							
1.2a	Produce an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure that is in line with current policies on equalities, human rights, sustainability and climate change; including by introducing 'Sustainability Tests; to embed equalities, sustainability and climate change mitigation into all Council policies and decision-making	Integrated Impact Assessment process	Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Production of an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure; revised IIA process to be used for all Council policies and decision-making	The current Integrated Impact Assessment	Production and adoption of an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure and implementation into all Council policies and decision-making	2020
Key Priority Area 3: Funding and Resources							
1.3a	Work with our partners including the Scottish Government to focus specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG; Scottish Government (SG); partner organisations	Specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	N/A	Dedicated funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	Annually
Key Priority Area 4: Reduce Emissions across the Council's Buildings and Services							
1.4a	Review / manage each of the following aspects of ELC estate and operations to reduce emissions towards achieving Net Zero: energy efficiency, water, heat	Climate Change Strategy; ELC Climate Change Reporting	CCPMG – all relevant Service Areas; Scottish Government	Emissions reduction towards Net Zero for energy efficiency, water, heat	Grid Electricity (generation): 5846.4 tCO2e; Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses): 498.4 tCO2e;	Reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually

					Natural Gas: 5453.2 tCO2e; LPG:121.3 tCO2e; Gas Oil: 340.6 tCO2e; Burning Oil (Kerosene): 35.8 tCO2e; Water – Supply: 44.1 tCO2e; Water – Treatment: 90.7 tCO2e		
1.4b	Continue the programme of energy efficiency improvements and incorporation of low carbon technologies in Council owned buildings – aiming for carbon neutral buildings	Corporate Asset Management Plan; Climate Change Strategy	Property Maintenance; Engineering & Building Standards; CCPMG	Energy efficiency measures installed		Energy efficiency measures installed in all Council buildings	2020 / ongoing
1.4c	Continue our Asset Management and Transformation Programme of office review of operational assets and rationalisation, and the shift towards flexible, mobile working, and collaboration internally and externally, to reduce energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint. Maximise opportunities presented by digital transformation to accelerate the shift towards more flexible, mobile working	Council Asset Strategy & Management Plan; New Ways of Working Policy; Workforce Plan	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management; Transform-ation Team	proportion of staff undertaking flexible / mobile working		Increased asset office rationalisation as per Corporate Asset Management targets; Property Asset Strategy; increased proportion of staff undertaking flexible / mobile working; and increased sharing of assets internally and with external organisations	2020 / ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 5: Improve Resource Efficiency and Sustainability							
1.5a	Facilities Management Services will aim to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use plastics by the end of 2020 as part of the UK Plastics Pact	UK Plastics Pact; Facilities Management targets	Facilities Management Service	Elimination of specific single-use plastics		Specific single-use plastics eliminated by end of 2020	2020
1.5b	Reduce ELC's waste and review recycling options within Council buildings and provide new systems where required	Conserve Resources at Work ('CRAW')	Waste Services; Facilities Management Service				2020 / ongoing
Key Priority Area 6: Reduce Emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel							
1.6a	Review / manage each of the following aspects of ELC estate and operations to reduce emissions towards achieving Net Zero: our Transport Fleet and Business Mileage	Climate Change Strategy; ELC Climate Change Reporting	CCPMG – all relevant Service Areas; Scottish Government	Emissions reduction towards Net Zero for Transport Fleet and Business Mileage	Business Mileage: Average Car - Unknown Fuel: 345.9 tCO2e; Bus: 35.8 tCO2e; Car - diesel: 24.2 tCO2e; HGV - average all types & sizes: 541.4 tCO2e; Van - Average (up to 3.5 tonnes) Diesel: 737.8 tCO2e	Reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
1.6b	Implement an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy for our Council vehicle fleet	ULEV Strategy	Transport Services	ULEV Strategy implemented		ULEV Strategy implemented	2020
1.6c	Continue the development of ultra low emissions vehicles (ULEV) options across the Council, including utilisation of full electric vehicle (EV) and hybrid technology for pool cars and operational vehicles	ULEV Strategy; Fleet Management; LTS	Transport Services; Roads Services	Numbers of ULEV vehicles in Council Fleet		Replace the Council's fleet with ULEV wherever feasible	2020 / ongoing
1.6d	Implement a 'Green Travel Plan' for all Council staff, setting out the expectation, resources and infrastructure to implement modal shift in staff travel behaviour from driving single-occupancy private cars to sustainable travel options, including use of electric vehicle (EV) pool cars, car sharing, active travel, use of public transport	Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	Roads Services	Introduce a travel plan for all ELC staff (subject to constituencies of the service)		Introduce a travel plan for all ELC staff	2021
1.6e	Continue the programme of installation of electric charging points for electric vehicles at all Council offices, depots and public buildings	LTS	Roads Services	Number of EV chargepoints installed at Council buildings	The first EV chargepoint was installed in 2012	Increased number of EV chargepoints installed at all Council buildings wherever possible	Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
1.6f	Roll out EV training for staff	Fleet Management; LTS	Transport Services; Roads Services	Number of staff trained and using the Council's EV pool fleet		Increased number of staff trained and using the Council's EV pool fleet	Annual
1.6g	Develop electric bikes / i-bike options to reduce staff dependency on the car for shorter work journeys	LTS	Roads Services	Numbers of electric bikes / i-bikes for Council staff use		Electric bikes / i-bike options for staff use at all main Council offices	2022
1.6h	Work to achieve Cycling Scotland's *Cycle Friendly Employer* status	LTS	Roads Services	Working towards *Cycle Friendly Employer* status		Achieve *Cycle Friendly Employer* status	2022
Key Priority Area 7: Sustainable Procurement							
1.7a	Produce and implement a revised and updated Sustainable Procurement Policy, to ensure that goods and services are procured ethically and responsibly, from ethical and sustainable sources, including through the supply chain and sub-contractors	Procurement policy	Procurement Team	Production of an updated Sustainable Procurement Policy	Previous Sustainable Procurement Policy has not been fully implemented	Production, adoption and implementation of an updated Sustainable Procurement Policy	2020
1.7b	Produce and implement a new community benefits in procurement procedure, set out in an updated Community Benefits Strategy	Community Benefits Strategy	Procurement Team	Production of an updated Community Benefits Strategy		Production, adoption and implementation of an updated Community Benefits Strategy	2020

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People							
1.8a	Set up an East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum to ensure our young people's voices are heard and to support and empower young people to take action in their communities		Education; Community Learning & Development; SECCO	East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum		East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum in place	By end of 2020
1.8b	Embed the objectives of this Climate Change Strategy with the 'Learning for Sustainability' (LfS) agenda as part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). LfS is delivered through outdoor learning, global citizenship and sustainable development	LfS Vision 2030 as part of Curriculum for Excellence	Education; Outdoor Learning Service; national education partners	Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum		Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum	2020
1.8c	Support and expand the 'Eco-Schools' programme in East Lothian schools – potentially with greater input from other agencies and organisations / a county wide programme to support schools and teachers with delivery of projects	Curriculum for Excellence	Education; ELC Countryside Ranger Service; external partners including Keep Scotland Beautiful	Levels of participation in the 'Eco-Schools' programme in East Lothian schools; eco-projects delivered in schools	In East Lothian there are currently 66 schools registered with Eco-Schools, and 11 schools have Green Flags (from Keep Scotland Beautiful website)	Increased levels of participation in the 'Eco-Schools' programme in East Lothian schools; more Green Flag Awards; more eco-projects delivered in schools	Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
1.8d	Improve sustainability and recycling in schools including reduction / elimination of single-use plastic packaging, a greater selection of recyclable materials across school catering services, improved recycling & food composting facilities in schools		Facilities Management; Education; Waste Services	Quantities of single-use plastic packaging purchased; quantities of recyclable materials across school catering services; recycling & food composting facilities in schools		No single-use plastic packaging in school canteens; increased quantities of recyclable materials across school catering services; recycling & food composting facilities in all schools	Annual
1.8e	Continue to source local food and achieve the Soil Association's *Food for Life Served Here* award; and promote/ensure more plant-based food options in schools, including 'meat free' days and vegan options		Facilities Management; Education	Achieving the *Food for Life Served Here* award; food options available in school canteens	Food for Life Served Here Bronze award has been achieved by ELC for past 6 years	Achieve *Food for Life Served Here* Silver award; more plant-based food options are available in schools, including promoted 'meat free' days and vegan options	Annual
1.8f	Support schools to develop Bikeability Scotland training, to teach skills needed to cycle safely on roads, and 'Play on Pedals' (which aims to give all children the chance to learn to ride a pedal bike before they start Primary 1)	LTS	Education; Outdoor Learning Service; Roads Services; Connected Communities; partners	Number of East Lothian pupils undertaking Bikeability Scotland Level 1, 2 & 3 training, and 'Play on Pedals'	Number of pupils undertaking Bikeability training 2014/15: Level 1: 316 Level 2: 130 Level 3: 5	Increased uptake of Bikeability Scotland [In 2018/19: Level 1: 757 pupils Level 2: 513 pupils Level 3: 6]; Increased uptake of 'Play on Pedals'	Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
1.8g	Active Travel to School campaign and promotion, including parking management around schools, and supporting modal shift from school buses to active travel wherever feasible	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services; Sustrans; Area Partnerships; Education	Number of pupils travelling to school by active travel modes (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	72.8% of pupils travelling actively to school in 2018 (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	Increased number of pupils travelling to school by active travel modes (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	Annual
1.8h	Investigate and develop opportunities for business development training / apprenticeships for secondary pupils in the 'circular economy'		Economic Development; Education; external partners	Develop a programme of business development training / apprenticeships for secondary pupils in the 'circular economy'		Programme of business development training / apprenticeships in the 'circular economy' is developed and rolled out to secondary schools	2023
1.8i	Support and expand pupils' engagement with and value of the local greenspace through Outdoor Learning as part of 'Learning for Sustainability' (LfS) within the Curriculum for Excellence including Award schemes (Duke of Edinburgh; John Muir Award; SQA secondary phase awards)	Curriculum for Excellence	Education; Outdoor Learning Service	Levels of participation in LfS agenda	LfS Vision 2030 from Education Scotland measured through the EVOLVE offsite education reporting system; DofE engagement data; JMA engagement data; SQA awards	All schools delivering on vision on LfS 2030. Measured through the EVOLVE offsite education reporting system DofE engagement data JMA engagement data SQA awards	Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 9: Climate Adaptation: A Resilient Council							
1.9a	Implement the Corporate Risk Register and Risk management Plans to Review the resilience of Council buildings and infrastructure networks to sustain and enhance the benefits and services provided	Corporate Risk Register; Risk Management Plans; Corporate Asset Management Plan	Protective Services; Risk Management; all relevant Services			Included within Risk Register	Annual

	Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality						
Ref	**Action**	**Relevant Strategy / Plan**	**Lead Person / Service**	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target (where applicable)**	**Target date**
Key Priority Area 1: Sustainable Transport							
2.1a	Work with partners and key stakeholders, including national transport agencies and local public transport providers (bus and rail transport), to implement the Local Transport Strategy, enhancing and better integrating public transport provision and connectivity	Local Transport Strategy (LTS); Local Development Plan (LDP); Developer Contributions Framework	Roads Services; Transport Services; Planning Service; partners & stakeholders	As per Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	As per Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	As per LTS	ongoing
2.1b	Progress feasibility studies for, and progress implementation of, Sustainable Transport Hubs in East Lothian	LTS	Roads Services; partners including Transport Scotland and Energy Saving Trust	Feasibility studies for Sustainable Transport Hubs progressing		Feasibility studies for Sustainable Transport Hubs progressing; implementation of Hubs progressing	2022
2.1c	Work in partnership with our communities to identify local travel and transport solutions and to ensure a fair and just transition to a carbon neutral East Lothian; explore options for shared community transport options, particularly for our rural communities	LTS; Area Plans	Roads Services; Connected Communities; partners & stakeholders including Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Tenants & Residents Associations	Community involvement in decision-making over local transport and travel solutions	Travel and transport actions in current Area Plans	Community approved travel & transport actions embedded in Area Plans and implementation programmes underway	ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
2.1d	Continue the promotion of sustainable transport options in East Lothian, including via Area Partnerships, East Lothian On The Move, Traveline, smart technology and mobile / digital technology	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services; Connected Communities; Area Partnerships and other external partners	Awareness levels from Residents' Survey; number of behaviour-change interventions produced		Increased levels of awareness from Residents' Survey; increased number of behaviour-change interventions produced	2020 / ongoing
2.1e	Explore options for shared community transport options, particularly for our rural communities		Transport Services; partners; Connected Communities			Proposals for shared community transport options established.	2022
2.1f	Electric East Lothian: Continue the roll-out of new Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoints around the county; improve management and maintenance of existing chargepoints	Electric Vehicle chargepoint (EVCP) strategy; LTS; LDP	Roads Services; Transport Scotland; Planning Service; partners	Number of EV chargepoints installed and in good working order What is this?	The first EVCP was installed in East Lothian in 2012	• A Journey (Rapid) charger in each of our 12 largest towns; • An increasing number of on- and off-street destination chargers for residential use	2023
2.1g	Electric East Lothian: support the switch to Electric Vehicles (EVs) in East Lothian	Electric Vehicle chargepoint strategy	Roads Services; key partners and stakeholders	The number of electric vehicles registered, as a proportion of the total number of licensed vehicles in East Lothian	0.07% EVs in 2015	15% switch to EVs by 2023	2023
2.1h	Develop guidance for the specification and installation of EV chargepoints in new developments charging points (including for new flatted / communal parking in developments)	EV chargepoint Strategy; LTS; LDP / Supplementary Planning Guidance	Roads Services; Planning Service; partners	EV Strategy and guidance		Implementation of EV Strategy and guidance	2021

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
2.1i	Work with businesses and other employment hubs to implement Green Travel Plans for staff, and work up a promotional campaign with rewards e.g. Sustrans' Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge		Roads Services; SECCO; partners; businesses	Number of Green Travel Plans for Staff produced for businesses / employers; number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes		Increasing number of Green Travel Plans for Staff produced for businesses/employers; increasing number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes	2021
Key Priority Area 2: Active Travel							
2.2a	Progress implementation of the Segregated Active Travel Corridor	LTS; LDP	Planning Service; Roads Services; developers; Sustrans; SEStran	Implementation of Segregated Active Travel Corridor progressing		Segregated Active Travel Corridor being implemented and being used	2020 / ongoing
2.2b	Implement the actions in the Active Travel Improvement Plan (ATIP) (Local Transport Strategy)	LTS (ATIP); LDP; Developer Contributions Framework	Roads Services; Planning Service; Outdoor Access; Area Partnerships; Sustrans; SEStran; other partners	As per Active Travel Improvement Plan (LTS)	As per ATIP (LTS)	As per ATIP (LTS)	2020 / ongoing
2.2c	Working with partners, including the East Lothian Cycle Forum and Area Partnerships, support and encourage community initiated projects, including with funding and infrastructure	LTS / ATIP; Area Plans	Roads Services; Outdoor Access; Connected Communities; funding partners; Area Partnerships; community partners; East Lothian Cycle Forum	Community initiated projects are incorporated into Area Plans and implemented		Community initiated projects are incorporated into Area Plans and implemented	2020 / ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
2.2d	Continue the promotion of active travel options in East Lothian, including via Area Partnerships, East Lothian Cycle Forum, East Lothian On The Move, Traveline, smart technology and mobile / digital technology	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services; Area Partnerships; East Lothian Cycle Forum; external partners	Awareness levels from Residents' Survey; number of behaviour-change interventions produced		Increased levels of awareness from Residents' Survey; increased number of behaviour-change interventions produced	2020 / ongoing
2.2e	Improve management and maintenance of walking routes and the Core Path Network, and continue to improve path surfaces to ensure access for all abilities, constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces); ensure that our places encourage walking, with well-maintained streets, paths and public spaces that are fully accessible and fit for purpose; pedestrian priority; information on walking routes; walking / pedestrian infrastructure	Core Paths Plan; LTS / ATIP	Outdoor Access; Countryside Service; Roads Services; Connected Communities; Area Partnerships; funding partners; East Lothian Local Access Forum	Core Paths Audits data		Improved management and maintenance of Core Paths Network as per Core Paths Audits	2020 / ongoing
2.2f	Work with partners to improve cycling route connectivity and safety, particularly to connect rural communities to larger settlements and/or public transport hubs and connectivity to local amenities	LTS / ATIP; Area Plans	Roads Services; Connected Communities; funding partners; East Lothian Cycle Forum	Progressing implementation of connecting cycle routes		Connecting cycle routes are being implemented and being used	2020 / ongoing
2.2g	Roll out electric bike and public bicycle hire hubs with associated infrastructure in partnership with communities / Area Partnerships	LTS	Roads Services; Connected Communities; APs; partners	Bike hubs established; e-bike usage		Electric bike hubs and bicycle hire hubs established; e-bike usage is increasing	2022

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
2.2h	Support Bikeability cycle training for adults throughout the county		Outdoor Learning Service; Roads Services	Number of Bikeability training sessions for adults and number of participants	None at present	Increased numbers of Bikeability training sessions and participants	2023
Key Priority Area 3: Improving Air Quality							
2.3a	Continue to comply with Air Quality Objectives (AQO) and improve air quality in Musselburgh's Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Local Air Quality Management Progress Reports	Protective Services (Environmental Health – Air Quality); Planning Service; partners	Local Air Quality Management – Annual Progress Reporting: Air Quality Objectives	AQOs were exceeded in 2013; this is when an AQMA was declared	Comply with all Air Quality Objectives (AQO); no exceedances of any objectives	2020 / ongoing
2.3b	Investigate collaborative working with City of Edinburgh Council to identify solutions to tackle traffic congestion and air quality in Musselburgh		Roads Services	Progression of collaborative solutions for Musselburgh with City of Edinburgh Council		Progression of collaborative solutions for Musselburgh with City of Edinburgh Council	ongoing
2.3c	Reduce exposure to poor air quality through urban placemaking, including appropriate green network solutions such as hedges / use of landscaping to buffer emitting development		Planning Service; Protective Services; Connected Communities; partners	Placemaking and urban planning of green solutions	The Council has already planted hundreds of urban trees	Increase green solutions as barriers / buffers to air pollution	ongoing
2.3d	Explore innovative technological solutions to improve urban Air Quality, including the latest version of the CityTree installation for Musselburgh	Local Air Quality Management Progress Reports	Protective Services (Environmental Health – Air Quality); partners	Explore ideas for innovative technical solutions to improve urban Air Quality	Phase 1 CityTree pilot project ran in 2018/19 in Musselburgh's AQMA	Development of innovative technical solutions to improve urban Air Quality	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
2.3e	Expand Air Quality awareness-raising campaign to end idling of vehicles; including promoting health and wellbeing implications of cleaner air	Air Quality Management	Protective Services; East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership; partners; communities	Air Quality awareness-raising campaign produced		Air Quality awareness-raising campaign produced and rolled out; monitoring underway	ongoing
Key Priority Area 4: Climate Adaptation: Resilient Transport Networks and Infrastructure							
2.4a	Implement the Road Asset Management Plan, Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Plans, to ensure the road, rail and active travel network infrastructure, including coastal protection for coastal transport infrastructure, is future-proofed to withstand extreme weather events / tidal surges and future changes to the climate; ensure paths are constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces); continue to monitor and review	LTS; Road Asset Management Plan, Corporate Risk Register, Risk Management Plans	Road Services; Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners				ongoing

Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate							
Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 1: Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings							
3.1a	Continue to improve the energy efficiency of East Lothian's existing buildings, exploring options for low carbon and renewable heat and energy sources to meet the targets set out in the Energy Efficiency Scotland Programme to make Scotland's existing buildings near zero carbon wherever feasible.	LHEES; Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Asset Management	Strategy & Development; Projects Team; Scottish Government			Reduced Energy Consumption	Annual
3.1b	Maximise funding opportunities for energy efficiency measures across all housing tenures in East Lothian and continue to complete fabric improvements to domestic Council and private stock	LHEES; Local Housing Strategy (LHS)	Strategy & Development; Housing Team; Property Maintenance	Number of measures installed		Increased number of energy efficiency measures installed	Annual
3.1c	Roll out the Energy Advice Service to support occupiers to run the buildings efficiently and effectively, particularly to those households most at risk of fuel poverty.		Strategy & Development	Number of homes visited by Energy Advisors			Annual
3.1d	Improve knowledge and understanding of Council housing stock, i.e. condition, fuel poverty, energy efficiency		Property Maintenance	Number of Council housing assets with full stock condition intelligence		All assets to be physically surveyed on a 5-year rolling programme	Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
3.1e	Continuing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) while also meeting Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH) is a priority for all social landlords. Widen the range of technologies under consideration to allow compliance with the EESH2 standard by 2032		Property Maintenance	% of housing stock compliant with the SHQS / EESSH	Annual return of the Social Housing Charter (ARC)	SHQS - ongoing. EESSH - December 2020.	2020 / ongoing
3.1f	Identify solar PV opportunities for public and private buildings where technically feasible		Transformation Board; Strategy & Development; Property Maintenance	Number of PV installations	Zero		Ongoing
3.1g	Continue to install LED lighting in our buildings and domestic stair wells. Exploring opportunities for future smart intelligent lighting		Strategy & Development; Property Maintenance				Ongoing
3.1h	Continue to explore setting up an Energy Service Company (ESCO)		Housing Property Maintenance Strategy & Development; Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing
3.1i	Continue to explore opportunities for new innovative energy efficiency workstreams through the Energy Transformation Board		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 2: Opportunities for Sustainable Energy and Heat							
3.2a	Participate in the Scottish Government's pilot Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) Programme and respond to proposals to create a statutory framework for LHEES	LHEES	Strategy & Development; SECCO; Planning; Transformation Team; Scottish Government	Production of an East Lothian Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) with identified actions		Production, adoption and implementation of an East Lothian Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)	(to be confirmed by Scottish Government)
3.2b	Explore with local communities to pursue local renewable energy schemes / Community Energy Schemes with local benefits, following on from LHEES	LHEES; Planning	Strategy & Development; SECCO; Planning; Transformation Team; Area Partnerships; Community Councils			To be developed during LHEES process	2025
3.2c	Research opportunities to utilise local water bodies for renewables including local reservoirs and rivers		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing
3.2d	Work with partners to continue projects to explore the use of low carbon District Heat Networks in order to capture and utilise waste heat from industry, Energy From Waste plants, ground-source heat from disused mines, other heat sources	LHEES; Local Development Plan (LDP)	Strategy & Development; Planning Service; SECCO; Transformation Team; external partners	Number of District Heating Networks in place and number of buildings etc connected to them	Need to establish a baseline	Increased number of District Heating Networks in place and increased number of buildings etc connected to them	2023

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
3.2e	Introduce a Planning Condition for developers to report on their actions taken to reduce the carbon emissions from the build and from the completed development	LDP; Climate Change Strategy	Strategy & Development; Planning Service; Building Standards		0		2020
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Buildings							
3.3a	Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change and what individuals / homeowners / employers can do to adapt, by setting up a website central hub linking to information from ELC and relevant partner agencies	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities initiative	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Web Team; external partners including Adaptation Scotland	Website Hub set up; number of 'hits' on website	None at present specifically for East Lothian	Website Hub set up; number of 'hits' on website increasing	2020
3.3b	Continue to ensure that all Council properties meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards and Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH) targets, which ensure homes are better adapted for a changing climate	Local Housing Strategy	Strategy & Development; Housing Team; Property Maintenance; Scottish Government	% of housing stock compliant with the SHQS / EESSH	Annual return of the Social Housing Charter (ARC)	SHQS - ongoing. EESSH - December 2020.	2020 / ongoing
3.3c	Work with partners to explore innovative options for adapting buildings and the urban environment for a changing climate, e.g. green roofs, green walls, ventilation adaptations, sustainable drainage systems		Strategy & Development; Housing Team; external partners and developers	Buildings / developments incorporating innovative green climate adaptation technologies	No baseline at present	Increase in number of buildings / developments incorporating innovative green climate adaptation technologies	2025

Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling							
4.1a	Increase waste recycling in East Lothian to meet the 2025 target	Waste Management	Waste Services	% of total household waste that is recycled (national targets)	51.8% (2016/17)	70%	2025
4.1b	Work with Scottish Government to set interim targets for being a Zero Waste county		Waste Services; Scottish Government				As soon as possible; by 2025
4.1c	Work with partners to progress installation of public taps / water fountains for refilling water bottles		Work with partners including Scottish Water / Planning Service	Number of taps installed		Increased number of taps installed	Annual
4.1d	Support communities to progress towards and achieve Plastic Free Community status	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; Waste Services; community partners				
4.1e	Continue to assist businesses and event organisers to implement resource efficiency, energy efficiency and waste reduction measures		Economic Development; Resource Efficient Scotland (RES); businesses	Number of energy/resource efficiency measures installed; cost saved to businesses – as per RES data		Increased uptake of energy/resource efficiency measures by businesses; increased cost savings	ongoing
4.1f	Develop and implement a Zero Waste Events policy		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of a Zero Waste Events policy	No policy currently in place	Zero Waste Events policy established	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
4.1g	Progress revision of licencing / permits so lease-holders / activities are required to cut single-use plastic and strongly encouraged to attempt a zero waste activity and demonstrate carbon reduction strategies		Legal & Licensing; SECCO	Revised licensing / permits progressing	To be established	Progressing revision of licences / permits to reduce single-use plastic use and encourage zero waste ethos	2025
Key Priority Area 2: Circular Economy							
4.2a	Work with partners to progress Circular Economy options for East Lothian's communities – including expanding 'Zero Waste' initiatives into all of East Lothian's communities		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; partners including Zero Waste Scotland	Circular Economy initiatives / Zero Waste hubs progressing	Zero Waste Hubs currently in Musselburgh and Dunbar	Progressing Circular Economy initiatives / Zero Waste hubs in all of East Lothian's communities	2025
4.2b	Work with partners to support the establishment of Repair Cafés / facilities in each community, including the provision of storage facilities so that tool shares, toy libraries and household equipment libraries can be hosted		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; Connected Communities; partners	Establishment of circular economy facilities progressing	Tool Library already established in Musselburgh	Increased number of circular economy facilities across the county	2025
4.2c	Businesses: Work with partners including Zero Waste Scotland to encourage circular economy business models among East Lothian's businesses		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; partners including Zero Waste Scotland; businesses	Number of businesses using circular economy business models	Need to establish baseline	Increasing number of businesses using circular economy business models	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 3: Reducing Litter and Plastic Waste							
4.3a	Prepare a Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR)		Amenity Services	Preparation of Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR)		Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) prepared	2025
4.3b	Reduction of litter through promotion / awareness-raising and initiatives, including supporting the work of local groups in reducing littering	COPLAR	Amenity Services; SECCO; external partners	To be established once Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) developed			2025
4.3c	Work with partners to implement practical and cost-effective solutions for reducing and eliminating microplastic granule loss into the environment from all our artificial sports pitches	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO, Sports Development; Fidra; other external partners	Number of artificial sports pitches with solutions to reduce / eliminate microplastic granule loss implemented	No sports pitches currently have installations to reduce / eliminate microplastic loss	Increase number of Artificial sports pitches to have installations to reduce / eliminate microplastic loss	Annual

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 1: Businesses and the Local Economy							
5.1a	Implement Economic Development Strategy refresh: Take opportunities to encourage low carbon innovation, research, new business opportunities – e.g. in renewables	Economic Development Strategy (EDS)	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of low carbon innovation / research / new business opportunities: number of Business Gateway starts in this sector and Business Gateway growth meetings		Increasing number of Business Gateway starts in this sector and Business Gateway growth meetings. DDI (Data Driven Innovation) City Deal project offers innovation opportunities, exploratory stage.	Annually to 2025
5.1b	Work with partners to develop training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors to future-proof our county and our workforce for the technological advances of the future	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors: Look to run Business Gateway workshops on Environmentally Sustainable business model – number each year with attendees		Increasing number of training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors	Annually to 2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.1c	Work with partners to build low carbon planning, energy efficiency and sustainability advice into the East Lothian business support ecosystem, and continue to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, improve energy and resource efficiency, and increase sustainability in their processes, supply chains, packaging, distribution	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners including Resource Efficient Scotland	Number of businesses supported to improve energy/resource efficiency, as recorded by ELC's resource efficiency consultant		Increased number of businesses supported to improve energy/resource efficiency	Annually to 2025
5.1d	Support the faster roll out of Superfast Broadband, including required infrastructure for new developments	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	% of East Lothian properties with Superfast Broadband (30Mbps - National target) (currently 91% in 2018/19)	85% (2016/17)	100% (2022)	2022
5.1e	Maximise the key assets in East Lothian to support sector development and local employment, including City Deal-funded project at Queen Margaret University (QMU); heritage assets such as John Muir in support of tourism, etc.	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners including QMU	As per EDS	As per EDS	As per EDS; City Deal-funded project at QMU: business case being developed, including measures, outcomes etc. Ongoing promotion of JMW and other initiatives via Visit East Lothian channels, measured through visitor / impact surveys	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.1f	Promote and add a new Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business'	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Implementation of a Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business'; number of participants	No course at present; need to establish baseline for minimum number of participants to make course viable	Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business' implemented and promoted; minimum number of participants achieved	2025
5.1g	Industry: Engage with local industry and work in partnership to support and encourage our local industries and national agencies to reduce emissions from industry (including exploring carbon off-setting projects), supporting the Scottish Government's targets		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Emissions from Industry sector, from UK Government data[66]	2017 data for East Lothian: Industry & Commercial Electricity: 73.2 $ktCO_2$; Industry & Commercial Gas: 39.3 $ktCO_2$; Large Industrial Installations: 589.2 $ktCO_2$; Industrial & Commercial Other Fuels: 30.6 $ktCO_2$	Decrease in emissions from Industry sector	Annual

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[66] This data is published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change in June each year; there is always a two year lag in the data

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.1h	Agriculture: Engage with farmers and landowners and work in partnership to support and encourage our local agriculture sector and national agencies to reduce emissions from agriculture and promote biodiversity and sustainability, supporting the Scottish Government's targets		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Countryside Services; partners	Emissions from Agriculture sector, from UK Government data[67]	2017 data for East Lothian: Agriculture: 18.5 ktCO$_2$	Decrease in emissions from Agriculture sector	Annual
5.1i	Work with partners to explore opportunities to develop the Carbon Capture, Utilisation and, potentially, Storage (CCUS) sector in East Lothian		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners			Cockenzie – NPF3 for renewable energy, ongoing engagement with potential investors	2025
Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres							
5.2a	Continue to support the 'Town Centre First' Principle to develop and enhance our town and rural centres	LDP; EDS; Town Centre Strategies	All relevant services; Planning Service; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing

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[67] This data is published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change in June each year; there is always a two year lag in the data

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.2b	Vibrant Low Carbon Local Economies – continue to support locally driven improvements to access, retail, service, and visitor experience in town and rural centres enhancing the circular economy ('shop local', farmers' markets, making connections to East Lothian Food & Drink, broad based business support, active and sustainable travel).	EDS; LTS; Town Centre Strategies ; Area Plans	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per EDS	As per EDS	As per EDS; linkages with Visit East Lothian channels	2020 / ongoing
5.2c	Provide specific support and signposting for low carbon, zero waste, sustainable, and social enterprise / community wealth building business models.	EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Town Centre partners	As per EDS	As per EDS	As per EDS	2020 / ongoing
5.2d	Work with partners to investigate options for local business hubs / co-working spaces, and support local co-working initiatives, if demand is identified.	EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Town Centre partners	Number of local business hubs / co-working spaces progressing		Increased number of local business hubs / co-working spaces progressing. If demand is identified, then work with partners to realise this demand, based on funding, commitment from businesses, availability of premises.	2Annual

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.2e	Continue to develop, deliver, and support town, local, and village centre regeneration initiatives including the repair of and improvements to the insulation and energy efficiency of private and local authority business premises, and the reuse of vacant / derelict buildings and land for mixed use development.	LHS; LPD; EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing
5.2f	Enterprising Communities - Support local efforts to enhance East Lothian's town, local, and village centres, helping deliver community-led regeneration.	EDS; LDP; LHS; Town Centre Strategies; Area Plans	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing
5.2g	Digital Towns – Continue to support measures to ensure that all town, local, and rural centres have the appropriate future-proofed infrastructure required to enable East Lothian to have the most digitally-connected local economy and communities.	EDS; LDP; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
5.2h	Proactive Planning – Encourage well connected, sustainable, low carbon town, local, and rural centre development, and recognising shifting retail and working trends, support mixed uses in centres to enhance sustainability and resilience	LDP; EDS; LHS; Town Centre Strategies	Planning Service; EDSI; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Businesses							
5.3a	Work with partners to encourage and support business, public sector and third sector organisations and other institutions prepare for the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, including preparing Business Continuity Plans		SECCO; Economic Development & Strategic Investment (EDSI); partners including Adaptation Scotland	Number of businesses, public sector organisations and other institutions prepared for climate change impacts; number of Business Continuity Plans in place		Increasing number of businesses, public sector organisations and other institutions prepared for climate change impacts; increasing no. of Business Continuity Plans in place	2025
5.3b	Work with partners to raise awareness of climate change impacts on businesses / climate adaptation measures		SECCO; EDSI; partners including Adaptation Scotland	Number of articles / events		Increase number of promotional articles and events attended	2025
5.3c	Engage local businesses with the Resilient Communities initiative and the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Planning, to identify where they can provide support for our local communities in times of hardship due to climate and severe weather impacts	Resilient Communities initiative	SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; businesses	Production of Emergency Response / Community Resilience plans to include local businesses		All Emergency Response / Community Resilience plans include local businesses	Ongoing to 2025

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral							
Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity							
6.1a	Progress an extensive annual native Tree Planting and maintenance programme in East Lothian to offset carbon emissions, in appropriate locations	Biodiversity Action Plan	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners; volunteers	Number of native trees planted / hectares of new woodland planted annually	To be established (tree planting underway for many years)	Increased tree planting	annually
6.1b	Prepare a Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian, as required by Scotland's new planning act		Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Planning Service	Preparation of a Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian		Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian prepared, adopted and implemented	2025
6.1c	Plant 40,000m^2 of wildflower meadows in East Lothian each year to improve biodiversity and increase pollination	Biodiversity Action Plan	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners; volunteers	Area of wildflower meadows planted	30,000m^2 (2019)	40,000m^2 annually	annually
6.1d	Review and update actions in ELC Countryside Site Management Plans to ensure they reflect best practice in site management for carbon sequestration / carbon storage potential – particularly for Aberlady Bay, John Muir Country Park, Gullane Bay; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	ELC Countryside Site Management Plans	Countryside Service	Production of revised Countryside Site Management Plans that reflect best practice in carbon sequestration / storage potential	Current actions in Countryside Site Management Plans	All Countryside Site Management Plans have actions that reflect best practice in carbon sequestration / storage potential	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
6.1e	Implement actions in revised ELC Countryside Site Management Plans to ensure countryside sites / natural habitats are in prime condition to sequester and store carbon; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	ELC Countryside Site Management Plans	Countryside Service; partners; volunteers	Condition of Countryside Sites indicator	Baseline Condition has been established for all relevant sites	Increased Condition of Countryside Sites indicator score; countryside sites / natural habitats are in prime condition to sequester and store carbon	2025
6.1f	Produce an updated Biodiversity Action Plan to tackle the Ecological Emergency	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service	Production of updated Biodiversity Action Plan		Updated Biodiversity Action Plan published	2022
6.1g	Implement the Biodiversity Priorities in the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan across East Lothian	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service; partners; volunteers	As per Biodiversity Action Plan			Ongoing / 2025
6.1h	Naturalise amenity grassland to enhance local biodiversity, improve natural habitats and support wildlife	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service; volunteers	% of amenity grassland naturalised		10% of amenity grassland naturalised	2022
6.1i	Protect the status of designated sites, and enhance the natural resource (particularly woodland, saltmarsh, peatland and other carbon rich soils which function in carbon sequestration), working with national partners	Biodiversity Action Plan, LDP, Green Networks Strategy SPG	Countryside Service; partners	As per national site condition monitoring indicators	Baseline established as per national site condition monitoring indicators	As per national site condition monitoring indicators	Ongoing / 2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
6.1j	Woodland creation / enhancement, native tree planting and hedgerow planting in and around our communities (in appropriate locations) to offset the carbon emissions and traffic pollution in urban areas	Green Networks Strategy SPG; OSS; Forestry & Woodland Strategy; LDP	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	Areas of native woodland planted; number of native urban/street trees planted	As per ELC Tree Management (Amenity Services) baseline	Increased areas of woodland in and around towns; increased numbers of urban/street trees	Ongoing / 2025
6.1k	Work with farmers and landowners to maximise carbon storage potential of land-use by planting of woodland or individual trees; peatland restoration and conservation projects; wetland creation; carbon sequestration, working with national agencies	Biodiversity Action Plan; Green Networks Strategy	Countryside Service; national and local partners	National indicators; implementation of conservation projects working in partnership	As per national indicators	As per national indicators; Conservation projects implemented working in partnership	Ongoing
6.1l	Undertake projects to improve and encourage biodiversity & wildlife and enhance natural habitats in and around our communities and urban areas, including managing amenity greenspace for biodiversity / pollinators, riverside habitats, grasslands	Biodiversity Action Plan; OSS	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; the Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC); partners; volunteers	Number of local biodiversity projects supported; records / surveys of urban wildlife	As per Wildlife Information Centre records; Biodiversity Action Plan	Increased number of local biodiversity projects supported; increased records of urban wildlife	Ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
6.1m	The Council's Countryside Ranger Service to interpret / educate / raise awareness of climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration as part of their remit	ELC Countryside Ranger Service Roles and Remit	ELC Countryside Ranger Service	Inclusion and implementation of interpretation / education / awareness-raising about climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration in ELCRS remit	Currently undertaken as required / when opportunities arise	Inclusion of interpretation / education / awareness-raising about climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration in ELCRS remit and being implemented	2020
6.1n	Work in partnership to look after the marine environment, including East Lothian's coast and beaches (e.g. beach cleans), including the responsible use and enjoyment of the coast	Countryside Site Management Plans	ELC Countryside Ranger Service; partners; volunteers	Actions in Countryside Site Management Plans; number of beach cleans / promotional events etc	As per actions in Countryside Site Management Plans	As per actions in Countryside Site Management Plans; maintain & increase numbers of beach clean events / promotional events etc as appropriate	Ongoing
6.1o	Investigate the impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast, including recreational disturbance to habitats and wildlife, and the cumulative impacts		Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Economic Development; partners; Planning Service	Production of study into impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast		Production of study into impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast, to inform future management	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
Key Priority Area 2: Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment							
6.2a	Promote and facilitate the adaptation of the natural environment by enhancing natural habitats and landscape features e.g. coastal dune systems, saltmarsh; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	Countryside Site Management Plans; Green Networks Strategy	Countryside Service; partners	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing
6.2b	Work with landowners to create connected blue networks and natural flood management, including marshland habitat creation and Sustainable Drainage System opportunities	Flood Risk Management Strategy; Green Networks Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; Countryside Service; landowners	Opportunities are taken to work with landowners to improve blue networks and natural flood management	As per Flood Risk Management Strategy	Increased blue network connectivity and areas of natural flood management identified	2025
6.2c	Plant trees and hedgerows around urban areas to create natural areas of shade and shelter	Forestry & Woodland Strategy; Biodiversity Action Plan; Green Networks Strategy	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other community partners	Length of hedgerows planted; number of urban/street trees planted	As per ELC Tree Management (Amenity Services) baseline	Increased length of hedgerows planted; increased numbers of urban/street trees	2025
6.2d	Continue to control invasive species	Countryside Management Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; partners	Eradication of non-native invasive plant species	As per management of invasive species	Work towards eradication of non-native invasive plant species	Ongoing / 2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
6.2e	Progress natural river flood protection measures / floodwater storage by improving natural riverine habitats, including freshwater marshland and wetlands	Flood Protection studies	Structures / Flooding; Countryside Service	Progression of natural river flood protection measures	Preliminary studies underway	Natural river flood protection measures	2025
6.2f	Incorporate into LDP and implement the climate change adaptation measures for new developments as set out in East Lothian's Green Network Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	LDP; Green Networks SPG	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	As set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	As set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	Development of adaptation measures as set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	Ongoing / 2025
6.2g	Reinforce path networks alongside rivers by willow setting (a natural riverbank stabilisation technique with green network benefits for biodiversity)	Core Paths Plan	Countryside Team; volunteers	Use this technique for core paths improvements / stabilisation wherever possible	Already underway	Continue to use this technique for core paths improvements / stabilisation wherever possible	Ongoing / 2025

**Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change**
Ref	**Action**	**Relevant Strategy / Plan**	**Lead Person / Service**	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target (where applicable)**	**Target date**
**Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking**
7.1a	Work in partnership with our communities to support our communities towards becoming Net Zero Carbon, including enabling community initiatives for carbon cuts, sequestration and adaptation, and delivering improvements to the public realm in towns	Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan, once published	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities; partners including Scottish Government	To be confirmed by Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan	To be confirmed by Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan	Reduction in Carbon Emissions	Annual
7.1b	Implement the Green Network Strategy to ensure connectivity, accessibility and enhancement of green spaces and green networks, including native tree planting / hedgerow planting in urban areas, wild spaces for nature, linked with blue networks and Sustainable Drainage Systems	Green Networks Strategy SPG; LDP; Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Planning Service; Strategy & Development	Greenspace connectivity in our settlements and new developments; 'Quality of Urban Greenspace' environmental indicator: Landscape Audit Management System (LAMS) score	Current LAMS score for our urban greenspaces as per OSS	All settlements have connected green networks close to where people live; LAMS score increasing	Ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.1c	Ensure that Core Path network, active travel network and wider path network are integrated and connect residential areas (including new developments) with settlement amenities, destinations, parks/open space, transport hubs; path networks in and around settlements should include shorter recreational circuits; paths should be constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces)	Core Paths Plan; LTS / ATIP; LDP; Developer Contributions Framework	Outdoor Access; Countryside Service; Roads Services; Planning Service	Length of Core Paths and length of promoted active travel routes; path and active travel connectivity	Current length of Core Paths and length of promoted active travel routes	Increased length of paths & active travel routes; particularly in urban/semi-urban areas; increased path & active travel connectivity	ongoing
7.1d	Ensure connectivity of residential areas with local sustainable transport modes, including buses / bus stops, to reduce reliance on the car; maps of routes available to new residents to encourage active travel	LTS	Roads Services; Transport Services; Planning Service Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LTS	As per LTS	As per LTS	ongoing
7.1e	Implement the objectives of the Open Space Strategy to ensure Quality Open Space (amenity open space), which functions in climate change mitigation and adaptation	Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure	'Quality of Urban Greenspace' Landscape Audit Management System (LAMS) score		All amenity open space at 60% quality standard; all parks at 70% quality standard; maintain and improve LAMS scores	ongoing
7.1f	Vacant or Derelict Sites: Encourage the local community to identify vacant or derelict sites and work in partnership to improve these to the benefit of the appearance of the local area, biodiversity and potentially community growing projects	LDP; Vacant and Derelict Land Survey; Open Space Strategy (OSS); Area Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities; Area Partnerships; partners				2025 / ongoing

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.1g	Support community led regeneration, including bringing empty properties back into use, to improve town centres and rural areas	Local Housing Strategy (LHS)	Housing Strategy; Strategic Investment				2023
7.1h	Support community initiatives such as cooking classes, community kitchens, food growing, community entertainment to reduce the need to travel and support vibrant and sustainable communities	Area Plans	Area Partnerships; Connected Communities Food Friendly East Lothian network established	Community initiatives supported by the Council		Number of community initiatives supported by the Council	Ongoing
7.1i	Work with partners to promote sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of local sporting activities in our communities		Sports Development; partner organisations	Number of sports clubs implementing 'sustainability statements'		Increasing number of local sports clubs implement 'sustainability statements'	Ongoing
7.1j	Awareness-raising campaign aimed at home owners / occupiers to enhance garden ground to tackle climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration, and enhance biodiversity (including the planting of native trees / appropriate shrubs; provision of food growing space / fruit trees); encourage homeowners not to replace garden ground with hard-standing or artificial turf		SECCO; partners	Publicity campaign implemented	No publicity campaign in place	Publicity campaign implemented to raise awareness	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.1k	Work with partners to take opportunities to improve water management, including rainwater harvesting and grey water harvesting, and creation and enhancement of blue infrastructure for both carbon off-setting and natural flood management	LDP; SUDS Guidance; Green Network Guidance	Amenity Services; Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	Development Proposals / Pre Application advice; open space enhancement	LDP Delivery Programme, Open Space Strategy	Number of watercourses enhanced or SuDS implemented in an environmentally sympathetic manner	2025
Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments							
7.2a	Enforce Planning Condition for all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points	Planning Condition	Planning Service; Building Standards	Reports submitted on actions to reduce carbon emissions from new developments		All relevant development proposals to submit reports on the actions to be taken to reduce carbon emissions	2020
7.2b	Progress embedding the Just Transition to Net Zero into the planning process through our next Local Development Plan for example by pursuing low carbon heating from the groundwater heat source from our coalfields, and a Climate Resilient new developments adapted for future climate change impacts	Next LDP; National Planning Framework	Planning Service; national partners	Just Transition to Net Zero is being embedded into next LDP		Progress embedding Just Transition to Net Zero into next LDP	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.2c	Implement the Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Networks, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), open space, allotments, active travel and sustainable transport connectivity in new developments, Travel Plans for residential and non-residential developments, green corridors for people and wildlife; encourage developers to facilitate the restoration of degraded watercourses, where possible	LDP and Supplementary Planning Guidance; Green Network Strategy SPG; Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG (in prep); Open Space Strategy	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	As per LDP policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	As per Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	As per LDP policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	Ongoing to 2025
7.2d	Include key elements of Design Standards for New Housing Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Green Network Strategy in next LDP. Until such time implement SPG in new development.	LDP	Planning Service	Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG prepared and implemented	Draft produced in 2018/19	Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG implemented	2020
7.2e	Explore Net Zero town of the future, including by pursuing low carbon heating from the groundwater heat source from our coalfields, and a Climate Resilient new town that is adapted for future climate change impacts	City Deal	Development Planning; partners				2025
7.2f	Explore the opportunity to include a policy requirement for developments to plant native woodland to mitigate against climate change and off-set emissions	Next LDP	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure; national partners	Work to inform new policy development			2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.2g	Evaluate our next LDP with a view to achieving the Net Zero Carbon emissions target by assessing development location in relation to transport, preventing loss of trees and topsoil areas, and woodland planting proposals linked to development	Next LDP	Planning Service; partners	Evaluation process progressing			2025
Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing							
7.3a	Prepare and implement a Local Food Growing Strategy for East Lothian, to ensure that allotment sites in East Lothian are of a sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents, including in new developments; support and promote local food growing initiatives		Amenity Services	Preparation of Local Food Growing Strategy		Local Food Growing Strategy implemented	2022
7.3b	Plant and manage community orchards / community fruit growing in partnership with communities; including planting apple trees alongside core paths – 'Apple Core Paths' – for community benefit	Local Food Growing Strategy (in prep); Area Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Area Partnerships; communities	Number of apple trees / fruit trees planted and managed		Increased number of apple trees / fruit trees planted and managed	2025
7.3c	Investigate options for working in partnership with our communities to bring areas of suitable urban land into use for local food growing, including private gardens and vacant land	Local Food Growing Strategy (in prep)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Area Partnerships; communities	Progressing options		Progressing options to bring areas of suitable urban land into use for local food growing	2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.3d	Work with partners to investigate opportunities for implementing a distribution network for surplus food growing production		Amenity Services; local partners	Progressing opportunities		Progressing opportunities for food distribution network	2025
Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement							
7.4a	Explore options to identify how best to engage and ensure representation across all sectors of East Lothian's community, to involve our communities in the local planning of our Climate Emergency Response (e.g. Citizens' Assembly; Climate Change Forum / Network)		CCPMG; SECCO; external partners	Options appraisal involving all sectors of East Lothian's community		Appropriate citizens' engagement forum is established and functioning	2020
7.4b	Produce a Communications Plan setting out our awareness-raising and engagement proposals		SECCO; Corporate Communications	Production of Communications Plan		Communications Plan produced and implemented	2020
7.4c	Develop an East Lothian Climate Change Charter, setting out what the Council will do and what communities / individuals can do to tackle climate change and reduce emissions		SECCO; Corporate Policy & Improvement	Production of East Lothian Climate Change Charter	Currently promoting the **#make a difference** theme	Publication of East Lothian Climate Change Charter	2020
7.4d	Support and help to promote national campaigns, including the Scottish Government's 'Greener Scotland' campaign, to consider the carbon footprint of our everyday lifestyle and behaviour choices		SECCO; Corporate Communications; partners	Participation in national promotional campaigns; social media engagement	Currently participate in Scotland's Climate Week, Earth Hour etc	Participation in national promotional campaigns; social media engagement	Ongoing to 2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.4e	Work in partnership with Community Councils, Area Partnerships, TRAs and other local groups and organisations to encourage and assist all areas of East Lothian to become involved in taking forward sustainability and promoting a low carbon lifestyle in their local area	Area Plans; Community Council plans etc	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners; Corporate Policy & Improvement	Actions incorporated into Area Plans and other community plans	Several Area Plans already include actions to tackle climate change	All Area Plans and other community plans include sustainability / plans to tackle climate change	Ongoing to 2025
7.4f	Set up a network of 'Green Champions' in our communities to help promote sustainability, raise awareness and encourage engagement with the move to a low carbon lifestyle		SECCO; Waste Services; CCPMG; community partners	Network of community 'Green Champions' set up	Many local groups etc already taking this agenda forward	Network of community 'Green Champions' set up	2021
7.4g	Set up a dedicated page on the Council's website to function as a central information point for directing people to information on the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and a Net Zero East Lothian; increase awareness of the impacts of climate change and what individuals / homeowners / employers can do to adapt	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities initiative	SECCO; Corporate Communications; partners	Central information point set up on Council's website	Climate change information & links currently on Council website	Central information point set up on Council's website	2020
7.4h	Undertake an awareness raising campaign to promote tackling climate change, reducing emissions and how everyone can #makeadifference; including information provision and promoting behaviour change		SECCO; Corporate Communications	Awareness levels measured via Scottish Household Survey	74% of adults in 2018	Increasing levels of awareness	Ongoing to 2025

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.4i	Work with partners to provide information, training and support for residents, communities and businesses and share best practice to help inspire action across the county		CCPMG; SECCO; external partners	Awareness levels measured via Residents' Survey	74% of adults in 2018	Increasing levels of awareness	Ongoing to 2025
7.4j	Community Events, Education and Training Programme: Continue to support the use of greenspaces and community meeting places by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities, promote opportunities to encourage a sustainable lifestyle, undertake education and awareness-raising activities and training.	Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; partners	Number of local events, training and initiatives; number of participants at events / training		Increased number of local events, training and initiatives; increased number of participants at events / training	Ongoing to 2025
7.4k	Community Involvement: Encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups to support the enhancement of specific open space	Open Space Strategy (OSS); Countryside Site Management Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; local groups; partners	Local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups underway	As per OSS and Countryside Site Management Plans	Local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups underway and supported; as per OSS	Ongoing to 2025
Key Priority Area 5: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Communities							
7.5a	Increase community and individual resilience	Resilient Communities network	Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team	Proportion of Community Councils with local Community Resilience Plans (currently 40% in 2018/19)	10% (2016/17)	75% (2022)	2022

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.5b	Set up a Climate Change Adaptation network for East Lothian, based upon the Resilient Communities network already established	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities network	SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other community partners	Establishment of a Climate Change Adaptation network for East Lothian	Resilient Communities network	Climate Change Adaptation network is set up for East Lothian	2021
7.5c	Community Councils will be encouraged to elect Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) for Climate Change Adaptation		SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and others	Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) identified for Climate Change Adaptation		Every Community Council has a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for Climate Change Adaptation	2021
7.5d	Work in partnership to support and assist our communities to prepare Climate Ready Response Plans for their area		SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team	Climate Ready Response Plans in place for communities	Community Resilience Plans already in place in several communities	Climate Ready Response Plans in place for all communities	2022

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date
7.5e	Raise awareness and understanding of climate change impacts among East Lothian's communities, and improve capacity to respond to climate risks; work in partnership with local employers, landowners, voluntary groups, and community planning partners including Emergency Responders	Climate Change Strategy; Severe Weather Response Plan	SECCO; partners including Adaptation Scotland, community planning partners	Climate Adaptation awareness-raising campaign / promotion; awareness levels among local population (measured in Residents' Survey)		Climate Adaptation awareness-raising campaign / promotion in place; awareness levels increasing among local population (measured in Residents' Survey)	Ongoing to 2025
7.5f	Progress the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme	Flood Risk Management Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners	Progress implementation of Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme		Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme is progressed	Ongoing to 2025
7.5g	Progress the Haddington Flood Protection Scheme	Flood Risk Management Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners	Progress implementation of Haddington Flood Protection Scheme		Haddington Flood Protection Scheme is progressed	Ongoing to 2025