

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 29 April 2025

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Climate Change Strategy Update and Summary

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the fifth annual update to Council on the progress of delivering the actions and commitments in East Lothian Council's (ELC) Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025. The report will also summarise achievements of the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025 in anticipation of beginning delivery of the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025–2030, with this being the final update of the former.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is recommended to note the progress made in decarbonising the Council's services and operations and making a climate-positive East Lothian.
- 2.2 Council is recommended to note the key projects and achievements delivered by members of the Climate and Nature Emergency Group, and the key risks set out in this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025 was approved by Cabinet in January 2020. Cabinet also approved the commitments to review and update the Strategy annually as further national legislative and policy changes occur, to review and update the Action Plan annually, and to seek approval from Council for these revisions and updates on an annual basis.
- 3.2 In addition to the commitments set out in the Climate Change Strategy, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 puts statutory duties on the Council to: contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets, help deliver climate change adaptation, and act sustainably. East Lothian Council reports on these duties annually to the Scottish Government through a

‘Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.’ The most recent Report can be found in the East Lothian Council Member’s Library Service.¹

Definitions of key terms used in this report can be found in Appendix 1.

Key National and International Climate Reports

3.3 Data from the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service shows that 2024 was the hottest year on record, globally.² It is the first year with an average temperature exceeding 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level, which is a threshold climate scientists recommend we do not cross to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Statistics also show that the rate of global heating is accelerating, while the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases continues to rise. 2025 may not be as warm as 2024, but the same report explains that the likelihood of breaching the 1.5° target in the 2030s is ‘highly likely’.

3.4 In March 2024, the UK Climate Change Committee published its annual report to Scottish Parliament,³ in which it says that reaching the 2030 target of a 75% reduction compared to 1990 levels is ‘now beyond what is credible.’ The report states that:

- The recent rate of emissions reduction outside the electricity supply, aviation and shipping sectors needs to increase by a factor of nine in the nine years from 2021 to 2030.
- Scottish emissions in 2021 increased by 2.4% from 2020 as the economy rebounded from the pandemic and were 49.2% below 1990 levels. This is the eighth target in the past 12 years that has been missed.

In April 2024, the Scottish Government announced that it will replace its target of reducing emissions by 75% compared to 1990 levels by the year 2030. It was indicated at the time that it will be replaced with a carbon budgeting approach, but there are as yet no details of the plan.

3.5 In September 2024, the Scottish Government published its third National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3). It has 5 outcomes: Nature connects; Communities; Public services; Economies and industries; and Scotland’s international role. The key actions for local authorities are to:

- Implement and maintain flood risk protections;

¹ East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2023/24

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17407/members_library_service]

² Copernicus Climate Change Service – Global Climate Highlights 2024

[<https://climate.copernicus.eu/global-climate-highlights-2024>]

³ The Climate Change Committee – Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland – 2023 Report to Parliament [<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-reducing-emissions-in-scotland-2023-report-to-parliament/#introduction>]

- Develop Coastal Change Adaptation Plans and manage coastal erosion; and
- Build a resilient learning estate.

ELC Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan

- 3.6 East Lothian Council's emissions in 2023/24 were estimated at 16,858 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. This is a reported increase of 20.5% compared to 2022/23.⁴

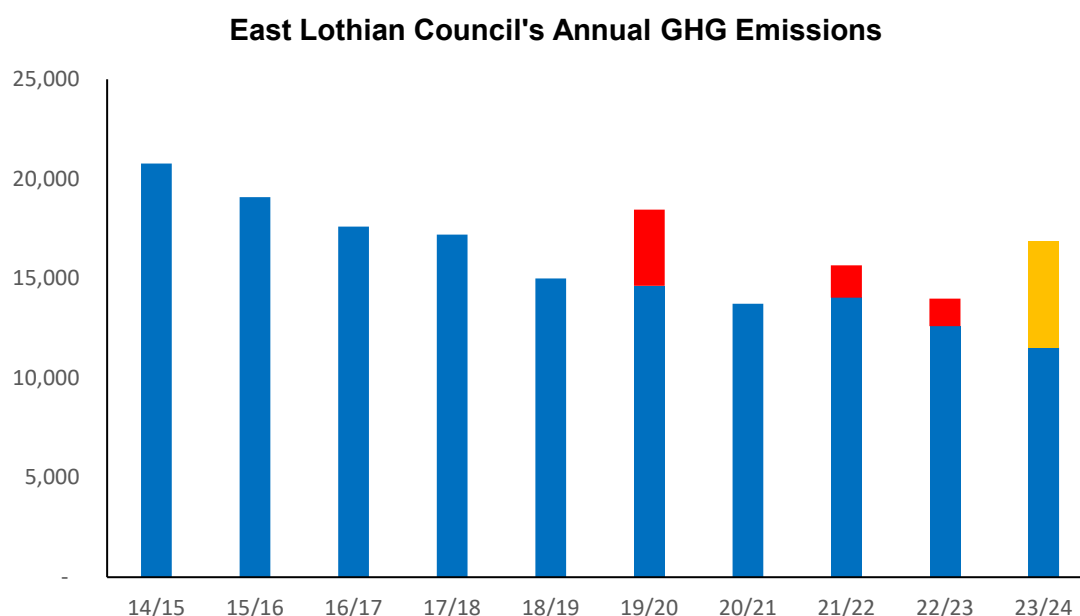


Figure 1: East Lothian Council (ELC) annual greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Y-axis = tCO₂e, x-axis = financial year (20xx). Blue = ELC emissions not including staff commuting & homeworking; red = ELC staff commuting & homeworking emissions measured by Zero Waste Scotland; orange = staff commuting & homeworking emissions measured by CalCommuter

- 3.7 The largest source of emissions increase was staff commuting and homeworking. It appears to have increased dramatically because we use a more accurate tool to estimate emissions from staff commuting & homeworking. We used a tool called CalCommuter to survey staff about their commute and collect data. 727 staff used the CalCommuter tool, which was up-scaled to 5,075 total staff. We now know that staff commuting is our second-largest source of emissions. Emissions from staff commuting were likely far higher in previous years, but went under-reported due to data limitations.

⁴ East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2022/23
[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17176/members_library_service]

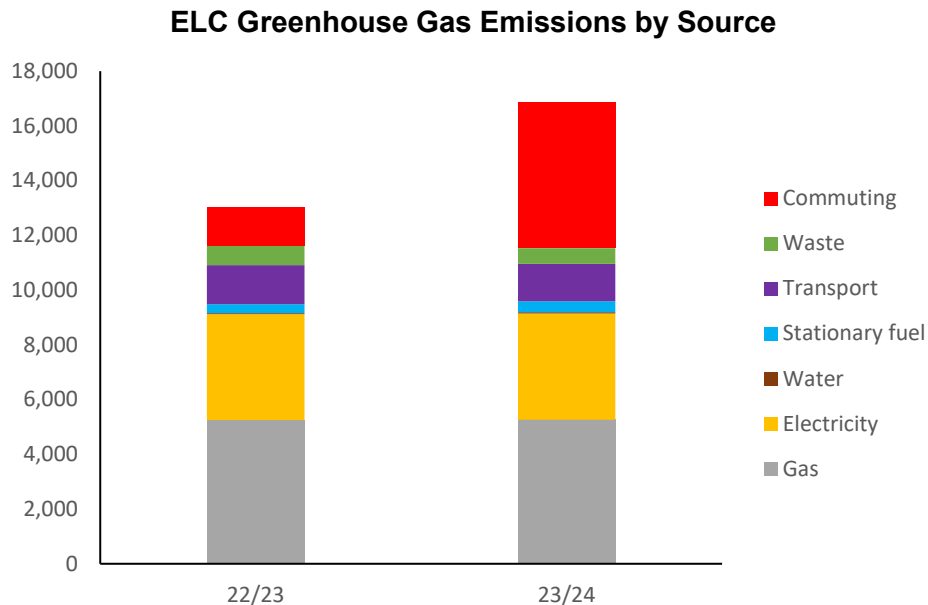


Figure 2: East Lothian Council (ELC) annual greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) divided by emissions source. Y-axis = tCO₂e, x-axis = financial year (20xx). Grey = gas; gold = electricity, including upstream losses; brown = water; blue = other stationary fuels; purple = business travel; green = waste; red = staff commuting & homeworking

- 3.8 Emissions from most sources went down year-on-year from 2022/23. Natural gas was our largest source of emissions and was nearly identical to the previous year. Electricity usage went down 22% but emissions went up by 1% due to a higher emissions factor. These reductions in consumption came despite new buildings coming online.
- 3.9 Emissions from our fleet and claimed business mileage decreased by 4% and emissions from municipal waste went down by 18%. This was led by a 53% reduction in tonnage of waste going to landfill and a 3% reduction of tonnage overall.
- 3.10 Officers have made progress on nearly every action in the Climate Change Strategy. Many actions were still deemed relevant and will carry over into the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030, while 4 actions were completed outright. However, other actions encountered challenges. In 2023, 14 actions were identified as 'slowed or delayed,' but that number increased to 26 in 2024. Most of the newly-identified at-risk actions are in the areas of transport and in community engagement. However, engagement did take place about specific projects such as the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and the draft ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025 – 2030.

Key Projects & Achievements of the East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2025

- 3.11 This list reflects some of the accomplishments that East Lothian Council has achieved over the lifetime of the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2025 to mark the last update of this Strategy.

- 3.12 The East Lothian Climate Hub is up and running, and supporting community climate action in the county. They support Community Heat Teams across East Lothian and run events such as the Green Futures Festival. They will work collaboratively with ELC to develop an area-wide climate change plan, guided by the East Lothian-wide Vision for a Thriving, Sustainable Future.⁵
- 3.13 All new schools are being built to an exceptionally high level of energy efficiency standard.
- 3.14 We have the sixth highest recycling rate in Scotland and we are exceeding the national average by nearly 10%. The amount of waste going to landfill has fallen by 90% and the overall amount of waste has reduced by over 20%. We fully comply with the Scottish Waste Charter.
- 3.15 Over 90% of ELC housing stock complies with the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing, well ahead of a 2032 deadline. This rate is an improvement of over 10% compared to 2020/21.
- 3.16 We have over 400 vehicle chargers in East Lothian, including journey chargers in all our large towns, to support the shift to electric vehicles. We also have a network of Journey Hubs and are constantly improving our active travel network to support the modal shift away from private car journeys.
- 3.17 Climate change is a sixth pillar of the East Lothian Community Wealth Building charter. This is entirely unique in Scotland and sets us and our residents up well for the future.
- 3.18 North Berwick and Cockenzie Harbours have been repaired after storm damage and their resilience to future climate-related events improved.
- 3.19 We are participating in catchment-level partnerships which promotes natural flood risk management, and we are working alongside other local authorities in Scotland to assess the risk that climate change poses to our region and identify solutions for Climate Ready South East Scotland.⁶

Key Risks Delivering the Climate Change Strategy Actions

- 3.20 The list below outlines some of the key risks encountered to delivering the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2025, which may also be encountered in the Climate Change Action Plan 2025–2030.
- 3.21 East Lothian's population is rapidly growing, and new infrastructure, developments, and services will be required to meet the demand of this growth. It makes the Council's journey towards net zero even more challenging, as decarbonisation needs to accelerate alongside this growth.

⁵ <https://eastlothianclimatehub.org/east-lothian-wide-vision-for-a-thriving-sustainable-future/>

⁶ <https://climatereadyses.org.uk/>

- 3.22 Successful delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation is dependent on funding, which is often intermittent. Low emissions travel schemes, nature restoration, and energy efficiency upgrades are among the projects which may be affected due to funding challenges. This makes it challenging to plan our activities and set reliable targets. Decarbonising buildings and transport are vital for the Council to achieve its net zero target and contribute to Scotland's wider net zero targets, current financial constraints place these targets at risk. Despite this, the cost of inaction will be far greater because every fraction of a degree of global warming that is avoided will save lives.

Conclusion

- 3.23 The Council was successful in delivering the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025 and Action Plan. Amid a shifting policy landscape and a constrained financial environment, emissions were reduced significantly and the Council delivered a number of successful climate-positive projects.
- 3.24 East Lothian Council faces a challenge to balance its climate change goals with financial constraints. There may be perceived setbacks in emissions reduction as our estate grows and we improve at measuring our emissions. There is also uncertainty about the approach to climate change mitigation at a national level. We must be flexible, adaptable, and continue to operate better and more sustainably with the resources available to us.
- 3.25 The ELC Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025 is expected to be replaced by the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025– 2030. However, many of the successful and effective actions and goals from the first Strategy will be carried over into the refreshed document. Members and residents will expect similar goals and approach with more alignment to the latest policy developments and a more quantitative monitoring framework.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a number of policy implications arising from this report that will be considered and incorporated in future local and regional policy development work in due course. The next East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy, which will run from 2025-2030, will guide how the Council addresses these implications.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The Council has so far addressed climate change mitigation and adaptation within service budgets. However, it is likely to be a financial challenge to achieve net zero by 2045 and meet interim targets relating to our fleet and estate. The Council will continue to work closely with national and regional partners to influence and align to national ambitions to ensure that the necessary measures, powers, and resources are in place to deliver a just transition to net zero and a climate-ready place.
- 6.2 Personnel – None
- 6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13283/climate_change_strategy_2020-25
- 7.2 Members' Library Service report 153/24 East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2023/24
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17407/members_library_service
- 7.3 Appendix 1: Glossary
- 7.4 Appendix 2: The Seven Outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy
- 7.5 Appendix 3: Climate Change Strategy Action Plan annual update.

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Appendix 1: Glossary

Climate Change Adaptation: Our climate is changing and Met Office projects more extreme weather, warmer/drier summer, and wetter winters. Adaptation refers to adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. According to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, local authorities must contribute to Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Climate Change Mitigation: Actions to avoid/limit greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and/or removal of these from the atmosphere. According to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, local authorities must contribute to climate change mitigation.

Just Transition: For the Scottish Government a just transition is both the outcome – a fairer, greener future for all – and the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to net zero. It supports a net zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.

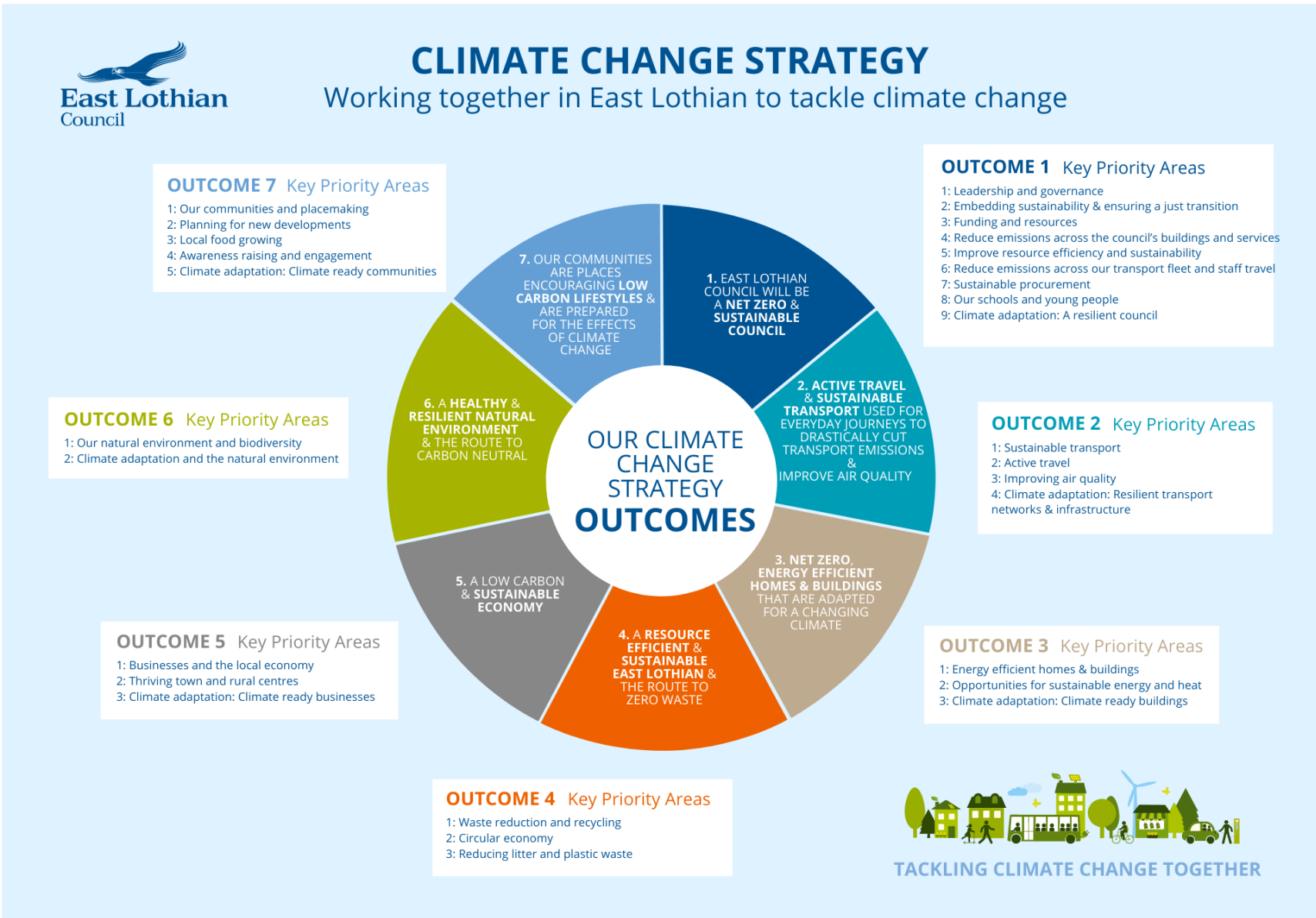
Net Zero: The state where the emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out through e.g. planting trees, restoring peatlands and carbon capture storage, equals zero.

Scope 1 Emissions: direct emissions from sources owned or operated by the Council, such as gas and fleet.

Scope 2 Emissions: indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam or power generated outwith the Council, such as grid electricity generation.

Scope 3 Emissions: indirect emissions that are a consequence of the operations or services of the Council, such as waste management and business mileage. Scope 3 Emissions also include procurement and staff commuting emissions. These emissions tend to be more difficult to measure. One way to identify procurement Scope 3 emissions is to investigate the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from the suppliers we procure from.

Appendix 2: The Seven Outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy



Appendix 3: Climate Change Strategy Action Plan annual update

Key to 'Tracker':

Green = action progressing / on track;

Amber = progress with action still underway but slowed or delayed;

Red = 2024 action not progressing / problem with delivery of action;

No Colour = target date not 2024

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date	UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2025	Tracker	Notes
Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council										
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; partners including Scottish Government	Annual Climate Change Reporting to the Scottish Government: East Lothian Council's total annual corporate emissions	44,034 tCO ₂ e in 2007/08	Continue to reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually	In 2023/24, ELC's corporate emissions were estimated to be 16,857.75 tonnes CO ₂ e. This is an increase on last year because we improved our measuring of staff commuting emissions and because the emissions factor for grid electricity has gone up. The Planning Service has submitted the Evidence Report for LDP2 to Scottish Ministers. This reported on some elements of climate emissions and adaptation action, as well as renewable energy development in the area. This is the first stage in producing LDP2, which will contain allocations and policy and proposals taking climate change mitigation and adaptation into account. LDP2 will involve significant engagement with partner organisations including Transport Scotland, SEPA, NatureScot and others.		
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	Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan)	Outcomes under East Lothian Plan 2017–2027	Key targets within the Council Plan	2022	We are beginning the process of renewing the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan) which will include Climate Change.		
1.1c	Annual reporting on East Lothian's overall Per Capita Carbon Emissions, within the scope of local authorities	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; CCPMG	Data published annually by the UK Government Department of	Baseline data 5.2 tCO ₂ e (2016/17)	Decreasing annual per capita carbon emissions	Annually	11.2 tCO ₂ e per capita 2022 (Source: UK Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics 2005-2022) – 7% decline compared to 2021		

				Energy and Climate Change (tCO ₂ e) for all UK local authority areas						
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	Staff awareness raised through delivering the Carbon Literacy Programme in the Council (by 2024, 62 staff have received their certificates). Engagement presentation on climate change is delivered quarterly through 'Welcome to the Council', hosted by the Organisational Development Service. An E-Learning on the basics of climate change is now available for all staff in LearnPro. The internal staff letter 'Inform' published green tips and stories regularly through its Green Corner function.		
1.1e	Ensure that training in carbon efficiency behaviours is provided to all new Council employees via the staff Induction process, to instil 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	2022	Training in carbon efficient behaviour is delivered through the Council's Carbon Literacy Programme (62 staff members certified by 2024), E-Learning in the climate emergency on LearnPro, and regular engagement presentations as part of the staff induction process 'Welcome to the Council'.		
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	2022	An E-Learning module on the climate emergency has been created and is available on LearnPro. The training is currently only voluntary and not mandatory. Next step would be to explore how the E-Learning can be mandatory as part of the induction process.		

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	Climate change is a named sixth pillar of the East Lothian Community Wealth Building Charter which anchor institutions have agreed to, and is a key part of the East Lothian Poverty Plan.		
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	Completed	Action completed in 2020. The IIA guidance will be updated again in 2025.		
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	The Planning Service has submitted the Evidence Report for LDP2 to Scottish Ministers. This is the first stage in producing LDP2, which will contain allocations and policy and requirements for developer contributions to focus funding, measures and resources to address the climate emergency. This will help ensure that development that comes forward is aligned with climate change targets. This will include promoting nature networks, 20 minute neighbourhoods and site allocations which consider climate change mitigation and adaptation. NPF4 already includes new, stronger policy on climate change. These policies form part of the development plan and Planning Delivery consider them when determining planning applications. However there is a significant training need to allow officers to consider Life Cycle Assessment as required by NPF4. This is being discussed with the Improvement Service.		
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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	CNEG – 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; 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	Reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually	Disposal of surplus properties is progressing to meet targets for financial year 2024-25, generating income, revenue savings and reduction in carbon emissions for the Council.		
1.4b	Continue the programme of energy efficiency improvements and	Corporate Asset Management	Property Maintenance; Engineering &	Energy efficiency measures installed		Energy efficiency measures installed	2020 / ongoing	1) The new Blindwells and Craighall Primary Schools are under construction. The schools have been designed to meet an operational		

	incorporation of low carbon technologies in Council owned buildings – aiming for carbon neutral buildings	Plan; Climate Change Strategy	Building Standards; CCPMG			in all Council buildings		energy target of between 67-83kwh/m2/annum. The performance of the buildings as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO2/m2) of 46% less than the minimum building regulation requirement. 2) The new replacement Whitecraig Primary School is under construction. The school has been designed to meet an operational energy target within Band A of the SFT funding criteria (67-83kwh/m2/annum). The performance of the building as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO2/m2) significantly less than the minimum building regulation requirement and also significantly less than that of the existing school.		
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	Council Asset Strategy & Management Plan; New Ways of Working Policy; Workforce Plan	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management; Transformation 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	1) The Property Asset Review is progressing: The next phase of New Ways Of Working projects is being developed and planning for the Place Project is underway, including a public engagement process on property assets in each Area Partnership in East Lothian, with a target of reporting to Council in June 2025. 2)) Place-making and rationalisation opportunities are being identified in Haddington and Musselburgh, in advance of the main place-making consultation work. 3) The Council Property Asset Strategy & Management Plan was unanimously approved by Council.		

	towards more flexible, mobile working.						<p>Homeworking and Hybrid Working policies have been adopted to support staff working from home or more flexibly.</p> <p>The Asset Rationalisation project aims to reduce the council's office building requirement and reduce the council's carbon footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work at Penston House, Macmerry, to enable 'New Ways Of Working' was completed in February 2023 and phase 1 works have been completed at John Muir House, with further phase 2 due to commence in January 2025. This has enabled teams to move from John Muir House, Haddington to Penston House, Macmerry, and also move all teams from Randall House, Macmerry into John Muir House. In addition, teams have also been moved out of less energy efficient areas in John Muir House into refurbished areas as well as house teams moving out of Brunton Hall. • Randall House was closed, and the building handed back to the landlord, on 8 October 2023. • Design work for further phases of 'New Ways of Working' John Muir House is progressing, and this to complete the facilities required for staff now based at John Muir House but also to further optimise office space. Design works have also commenced on the office areas at MECLC, Musselburgh to utilise these spaces better and this will aid the further reduction of office space within the wider Council's office estate. <p>Work is also progressing on re-purposing or marketing vacant operational properties, rationalising the Council estate. 1) The New Ways Of Working projects at Penston House and the initial phases within John Muir House have been completed to allow decant of all staff from Randall House and the handback of this leased office building back to the landlord. This is a major step in the rationalisation of office space, generating</p>	
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								<p>financial savings and significant reduction in carbon emissions for the Council. 2) The consultations and designs for the next phases of work at John Muir House are being progressed. Staff consultations are progressing at the Brunton Hall, to input into an options appraisal for this building, following closures of various areas due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). 3) Work on disposal of vacant properties is progressing. 4) Place-making and rationalisation opportunities are being identified in Haddington and Musselburgh, in advance of the main place-making consultation work, planned to commence mid 2024. 5) The Estates team are progressing a review of non-operational properties.</p> <p>The Estates team have commenced review of the non-operational estate and will progress this when they come out of business continuity and recruitment to vacant posts has been completed, enabling capacity.</p>		
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	2022	FMS continue to strive to work towards this key objective.		
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	All council buildings have access to recycling for paper/card/glass/plastic/cans		
1.5c	Reduction in ELC's paper use (printing) – 'going paperless'	Working Differently benefits	CCPMG	Reduction in printer paper order quantities		73% reduction in paper	2022	A new and reduced fleet of more energy efficient MFD and print devices has been deployed across the Schools and Corporate network. There have been challenges with implementation of the new print solution that will drive higher volume print jobs to		

								the central print unit where they can be delivered using higher capacity energy efficient devices. There have also been messages encouraging the use of electronic rather than paper methods of communication when appropriate a further comms exercise will be carried out once the above issues has been resolved.		
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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	Business Mileage: Small car - Petrol: 6 t CO2e Small car - Hybrid: 12 t CO2e Medium car - Diesel: 11 t CO2e Vans - Class 1: 42 t CO2e Vans - Average: 24 t CO2e Vans - Class III: 474 t CO2e HGV (average laden): 602 t CO2e School minibuses: 46 t CO2e School bus: 1.5 t CO2e Average car - Diesel (claimed): 57 t CO2e Average car - Hybrid (claimed): 6 t CO2e Average car - Petrol (claimed): 81 t CO2e Average car - Battery Electric Vehicle: 1 t CO2e Average car - Unknown: (claimed): 3 t CO2e 0.06% improvement		
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	2022	Fleet strategy 2 yearly update suspended whilst national government reviews are being undertaken. Fleet procurement to continue exploring EV options within operational and financial constraints.		
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	Remains at 14% for fleet EV. Continued assessment and review of alternative fuel solutions - on going.		

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	2023	The Innovate funded element of the CalCommuter project ran for a 12 month period and ended in November 2024. In that time every ELC worksite (over 120) was engaged and over 700 members of staff completed a CalCommuter questionnaire. Over 700 individual travel plans have therefore been issued. In 2025 we plan to continue to grow this number. Data collected from the CalCommuter platform will also be used for bespoke promotion of active and sustainable travel incentives for commuting, further development of ELC's offering in this space, and as a keystone of the Council's new travel plan - developed in partnership with TravelKnowHowScotland.		
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 charge points installed at Council buildings	The first EV charge point was installed in 2012	Increased number of EV charge points installed at all Council buildings wherever possible	Annual	10 new EV chargers installed since 1st March 2024 at Council offices for staff/visitor use.		
1.6f	Roll out EV training for staff	Fleet Management; LTS	Transport 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	Continues across services for new and existing staff within ELC.		
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	After successfully completing an ebike pool pilot in FY 23-24, Road Services had planned to roll out a permanent pool. However, perceived safety issues associated with lithium batteries - raised by colleagues in insurance - have meant we have not yet been able to progress this initiative as planned. For now, we will continue to promote and develop a push bike pool for staff use, and will review our approach to ebikes in 2025.		
1.6h	Work to achieve Cycling Scotland's <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status	LTS	Roads Services	Working towards <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status		Achieve <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status	2022	New cycle parking installed at Penston House. The Bike User Group, created as a result of the Cycle Friendly Employer certification process, is now well established and continues to promote cycling as a means of commuting on a regular basis - via mailings, led rides and events etc.		

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		The procurement team continues incorporating sustainability requirements where applicable. Uncertainty reminds in relation to the CO2 recording system. Further guidance is required from the Scottish Government		
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	2021	No changes. The inclusion of community benefits is part of the tender process.		
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	2020 / ongoing	No progress since last year.		
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; national education partners	Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum	Engagement with Outdoor Learning within school day: Primary 47% Secondary 100% (not including P7 camp)	Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum	2023	No update on the numbers stated for academic year 2022/23. Work has begun to develop a Learning for Sustainability strategy for ELC in line with Target 2030 and reflective of the Climate Change Strategy.		

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 currently 8 ELC schools have Green Flags (according to 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	No update on the figure provided last year.		
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	FMS continue to strive to work towards this key objective this includes having a contract to have all food waste & cooking oil uplifted this is weighted & recorded within each kitchen before being collected this includes peelings and skins of fruit and vegetables when being prepared for school lunches. This is then converted into Bio Gas or Bio Fuel.		
1.8e	Continue to source local food and achieve the Soil Association's <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> award; and promote/ensure more plant-based food options in schools, including 'meat free' days and vegan options		Facilities Management; Education	Achieving the <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> award; food options available in school canteens	Food for Life Served Here Bronze award has been achieved by ELC for past 6 years	Achieve <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> Silver award; more plant-based food options are available in schools, including promoted 'meat free' days and vegan options	Annual	FMS are delighted to confirm this Award was achieved again in September 2024.		
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; 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	No update on the figure provided last year.		

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	Ongoing work by Active Travel Officer to install more cycle parking at ELC schools. Behaviour Change initiatives overseen by Behaviour Change Officer and delivered in partnership with Living Streets and Sustrans, as well as ELC's own work on School Travel planning, continues to encourage modal shift for the school run. 2023's HUSS data appeared to show a slight decrease on the 2018 active baseline of 72.8%, but the county continues to report rates significantly higher than the national average.		
1.8h	Investigate and develop opportunities for business development training / apprenticeships for secondary pupils in the 'circular economy'		Economic Development; East Lothian Works; 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	Subject to funding continued support for businesses around Employer Recruitment Incentives for all age post school and also targeted incentives in the form of Parental Employer Recruitment Incentives for targeted parental groups including young parents across a range of employment sectors. Continuation of the Foundation Apprenticeship curricular offer across secondary schools in a range of vocational areas including Business Skills, IT Software. Sector specific training in line with Regional Skills Analysis data provided by Skills Development Scotland relating to Level 4 Construction and Future Skills (automotive - including electric vehicles, electrical and mechanical engineering) for school pupils.		
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	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	No update on the numbers stated. Work has begun to develop a Learning for Sustainability strategy for ELC in line with Target 2030 and reflective of the draft ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.		

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	Climate and Nature Emergency risk was edited slightly to reflect new policy landscape. Risk score was not updated.		
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										
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	Journey Hub network development continues, with input from Workforce Mobility Project and Innovate UK design support. From 2025 People and Place Plan funding is likely to support the aspiration to enhance and grow the network. DRT trial undertaken in Dunbar from March 24 to July 24 funded by CBF. Unfortunately due to no further funding unable to continue.		
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	Signage has now been installed at Wallyford, Musselburgh, Dunbar and East Linton		
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	ELC has now established bike share options for communities in Dunbar, Musselburgh, Haddington and Prestonpans - each town's library acting as Virtual Hubs for Brompton bikes. We have also supported Sustaining Dunbar with a community cargobike library project, and worked with community groups and businesses across the county to support cargobike uptake through longer term loans. EV car club access has been developed in Haddington, Prestonpans, Dunbar, Port Seton and Tranent. This will be sustained and developed subject to grant funding.		

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	We continue to promote sustainable transport options in East Lothian via the GoSESTran App, GoJauntly Active Prescriptions partnership with NHS/ELHSCP, and the ELC Active Travel webpage. We remain in dialogue with our On the Move/AP transport groups and continue to support the East Lothian Walking Festival.		
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.	2024	DRT trial undertaken in Dunbar from March 24 to July 24 funded by CBF. Unfortunately due to no further funding unable to continue.		
2.1f	Electric East Lothian: Continue the roll-out of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points around the county; improve management and maintenance of existing charge points	Electric Vehicle charge point (EVCP) strategy; LTS; LDP	Roads Services; Transport Scotland; Planning Service; partners	Number of EV charge points installed and in good working order	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	We have charging hubs in all of our towns and villages, and are progressing with proposals for as many as possible to be operated and maintained externally.		
2.1g	Electric East Lothian: support the switch to Electric Vehicles (EVs) in East Lothian	Electric Vehicle charge point 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	We are changing the measuring of this target.		
2.1h	Develop guidance for the specification and installation of EV charge points in new developments charging points (including for new flatted / communal parking in developments)	EV charge points Strategy; LTS; LDP / Supplementary Planning Guidance	Roads Services; Planning Service; partners	EV Strategy and guidance		Implementation of EV Strategy and guidance	Completed	No Change. This stance will be reflected in the next Local Development Plan. Moving from an unreliable back-office provider (CPS) to a range of alternatives will increase resilience and reliability of the network		
2.1i	Work with businesses and other employment			Number of Green Travel		Increasing number of Green Travel Plans for	2022	No activity by Economic Development this year, ESES workforce mobility project ongoing.		

	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	Plans for Staff produced for businesses / employers; number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes		Staff produced for businesses/employers, increasing number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes				
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	We have agreed a longlist of projects, and a methodology for assessing them		
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	<p>The Active Travel team has supported communities in North Berwick Coastal and Fa'side to develop community led active travel place plans in partnership with Planning Aid Scotland - where possible these should be consulted and developed when generating Area Plans and commitments.</p> <p>Improvements to the John Muir way around the Winterfield Golf Course with funds provided by Economic Development have been completed.</p> <p>Working with Roads Services to upgrade and produce a safer route to school at Wallyford.</p> <p>Working with Connected Communities to provide waymarked walking routes and interpretation as part of the Remembering Together project.</p> <p>Working with North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership to improve the coastal path from North Berwick towards Tantallon Castle.</p>		

								A consultation has taken place with ELC Path Warden volunteers to identify specific projects for works in 2025, for example surface upgrade to a section of the JMW cycle route at Becky's strip, Whitekirk.		
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	We continue to promote sustainable transport options in East Lothian via the GoSEStran App, GoJauntly, Love to Ride online, and the ELC Active Travel webpage, continuing dialogue with our On the Move/AP transport groups. The Brompton Bike hire scheme will constitute another tool in the digital space for active travel in the county. In addition, we continue to support the East Lothian Walking Festival and are developing an innovative approach to pool cars for Council staff that will see car club cars made available to the public across the county during evenings and weekends.		
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	East Lothian's Core Path Network continues to be monitored and well maintained by the Countryside Team. This includes the dedicated support of the Path Wardens (85) who undertake monitoring and small scale enhancements, maintenance and repairs to the infrastructures. Working with Connected Communities to provide waymarked walking routes and interpretation as part of the Remembering Together project.		
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	No progress since last year.		

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	Working with North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership to improve the coastal path from North Berwick towards Tantallon Castle.		
2.2h	Support adult cycle training throughout the county		Outdoor Learning; Roads Services	Number of adult cycle training sessions and number of participants	None at present	Increased numbers of training sessions and participants	2023	SEStran funded Active Travel Hub for East Lothian has now been established in partnership with Cycling UK - offers Adult Cycle training, led rides, maintenance training, bike loans etc.		
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	The Annual Progress Report for 2024, that includes monitoring data for the 2023 calendar year, will be submitted to the Scottish Government/SEPA for approval in Early December 2024. Accordingly, no update is available re monitoring data for 2023 at this time. The Council is continuing to progress the Revocation of the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area and it is anticipated this will be done by end of January 2025.		
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	No progress since last year.		

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	Ongoing. We continue to take opportunities to expand urban green network and tree planting opportunities including appropriate planting. Tree planting takes place during the planting season (October to end of March) in our communities through our ongoing 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. New hedgerows have been planted in new housing developments.		
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	No further action		
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	The "Switch off and Breathe" campaign that focusses on road vehicle emissions via the East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership continued to raise awareness through advertising campaigns involving TV, radio, bus backs and social media during 2024.		

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	In January 2023, the Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) 2022-28 was published. This plan identifies 3 flood studies and 5 surface water management plans to be undertaken within East Lothian in this period. ELC continue to work to the Forth Estuary LFRMP 22-28.		
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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

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	2024/25 ABS projects have commenced with CWI & EWI as well as the installation of Solar PV and battery on privately owned properties. The ABS budget this year is £1.1 million.		
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	2024/25 projects have commenced with CWI, EWI, new windows and doors as well as the installation of Solar PV and battery on council and privately owned properties. The respective budgets for these works are £2.5million (council) and £1.2 million (private).		
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	Changeworks continue to deliver the energy advice service which aims to reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency of homes and achieve financial gains for households. This service is focused on hard to reach groups and those in most severe fuel poverty. It is also limited to Council tenants and private rented sector/ owner occupiers. Housing Associations now have full access to Changeworks through alternative funding (organised Scotland wide). CAB now provide the LEAPS funding which can also advise and provide on the day energy efficiency measures.		
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	A 5-year rolling survey programme assessing stock condition, energy efficiency & housing quality commenced is ongoing.		
3.1e	Continuing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) while also meeting Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standards for Social		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	SHQS Compliance – 89.63% (Pass – 8379; Fail – 773 ; In Abeyance 183; Exempt – 10) & EESSH1 – 91.72%. The EESSH element of SHQS (i.e. element 35) has continued to improve and sits at around 3% higher than the Scottish Local Authority average.		

	Housing (EESH) is a priority for all social landlords. Widen the range of technologies under consideration to allow compliance with the EESH2 standard by 2032									
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	Included as an action within the LHEES Delivery Plan. 503 non-domestic/commercial installations in 2024. 402 domestic installations.		
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	No further update. New lighting in ELCs domestic housing is modernised to the new LED specification on a find and fix basis.		
3.1h	Continue to explore setting up an Energy Service Company (ESCO)		Housing; Property Maintenance; Strategy & Development; Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	This will depend on the outcome of heat network feasibility studies taking place in 2025. The LHEES was approved in October 2024 with a five-year Delivery Plan. No other projects have progressed in 2024.		
3.1i	Continue to explore opportunities for new innovative energy efficiency work streams through the Energy Transformation Board		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	The LHEES was approved in October 2024 with a five-year Delivery Plan. No other projects have progressed in 2024.		
3.1j	Improve knowledge and understanding of private housing stock, i.e., condition, fuel poverty, energy efficiency, to help understand those properties that are failing to meet the Scottish Government's EPC target and help facilitate Scottish Government funding to those who are eligible for energy efficiency measures		Strategy & Development	Number of private properties with energy efficiency data		All assets to be surveyed and validated through systems such as Home Analytics and physical surveys	Annual	Available data was improved. We are awaiting more information about energy efficiency standards in Scotland.		

3.1k	Review and update the Council's affordable housing specification and design guide to ensure all future developments are low carbon and sustainable		Strategy & Development			To review and update the Affordable Housing specification and design guide by March 2022	2022	The writing of the Local Housing Strategy 2024-29 has delayed the review of the SPG. The LHS has included the review of the SPG as one of the actions to be completed. It is now estimated that the SPG will be reviewed in 2023/24 alongside the preparation of the LDP2.		
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)	2023	Completed		
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	Specific action in the LHEES Delivery Plan. Three small communities secured Local Energy Scotland funding for early feasibility work.		
3.2c	Research opportunities to utilise local water bodies for renewables including local reservoirs and rivers		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	Sea source heat is being explored. Other options have been ruled out during the LHEES preparation as too expensive and/or inefficient.		
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	Covered by the feasibility study to commence in January 2025		
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 / ongoing	For all relevant development proposals, planning officers encourage developers to submit their proposals to reduce carbon emissions with their planning application. Where this has not been done, then the Council imposes a condition requiring details of measures to reduce carbon emissions to be submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.		

3.2f	Ensure all new build affordable housing delivered directly by the Council is as sustainable and low carbon as possible		Strategy & Development	Number of new builds delivering renewable technology		All affordable new build projects as a minimum must meet the Scottish Government's Greener Standard and beyond where possible	Ongoing	The New Build Team will continue to ensure that wherever possible all affordable housing will benefit from enhanced environmental standards through the use of zero carbon emission heating systems, electric vehicle charger points, photovoltaic panels, increased insulation and modern methods of construction MMC.		
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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	2022	ELC Climate Change web page remains relevant with up-to-date links to local climate action groups, advice for residents and businesses, and our latest policy changes.		
3.3b	Continue to ensure that all Council properties meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards and Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESH) 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 / EESH	Annual return of the Social Housing Charter (ARC)	SHQS - ongoing. EESH - December 2020.	2020 / ongoing	EESH compliance has continually improved year-on-year most recently from 90.86 % in 2023 to 9.72% in 2024, which is 3% high than the Scottish Local Authority average.		
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	The best way to progress this at present is through the Local Development Plan.		

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

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	53.1% (2023) Total waste generated in 2023 fell to 48,969 tonnes with 25,979 tonnes recycled.		
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	Landfill rate 4.7% (50% reduction compared to 2023). Landfill used only as a contingency for planned and unplanned EfW plant outages.		
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	No progress since last year.		
4.1d	Support communities to progress towards and achieve Plastic Free Community status	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; Waste Services; community partners					Inclusion in Climate Change strategy - enabling communities to achieve objective one on Local Governance. Single use plastic ban in Scotland effective from August 2022. UK wide plastic packaging tax in force from April 2022.		
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	Net Zero' expert help programme for local enterprises completed during 24/25 supported 24 businesses. Working at regional level (RPF) on development of a 'Net Zero Skills Hub' to address opportunities around green jobs.		
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	Statement of support for low- or no-plastic events is in place. Plastic reduction in businesses is being led at a national level.		
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	No change, policy still in place		

4.1h	Continue to reduce the Carbon Impact of household waste generated and managed for East Lothian	Waste Management	Waste Services	Carbon Impact of household waste generated and managed for East Lothian (tCO2e) - from SEPA national data	In 2018: 110,686 tCO2e. Carbon Impact per tonne of household waste managed in 2018: 2.21.	Continued reduction in Carbon Impact per tonne of household waste managed (from SEPA data)	2025	2023: 101,565 tCO2e impact per tonne of waste managed 2.07 reduction in the total amount of waste generated meant that the carbon impact per person has fallen from 0.95 to 0.904. Scottish average was 0.984		
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	Macmerry Recycling Centre has now been permanently closed but services are still available at Kinwegar Recycling Centre which has greater capacity.		
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	No update, but there are aims to progress this in the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.		
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	Net Zero' expert help programme for local enterprises completed during 24/25 supported 24 businesses. Working at regional level (RPF) on development of a 'Net Zero Skills Hub' to address opportunities around green jobs.		
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	We are continuing to work with partner organisation Keep Scotland Beautiful to progress LEAMS / LMS new litter management system as this becomes available through Zero Waste Scotland. Ongoing.		
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	Ongoing promotion and awareness-raising. We continue to support local litter-picking groups and individuals. ELLi (East Lothian Litter Initiative) still in place and promoted on the Council's website. We also continue to liaise with external partners.		
4.3c	Work with partners to implement practical and cost-effective solutions for reducing and eliminating micro plastic 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 micro plastic granule loss implemented	No sports pitches currently have installations to reduce / eliminate micro plastic loss	Increase number of Artificial sports pitches to have installations to reduce / eliminate micro plastic loss	Annual	1 x Resurfaced 3G pitch with mitigation measured complete. Remaining 3 to be delivered from 25/26 (x1) and 26/27 (x2).		

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

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	New Local Economy Strategy approved April 2024, includes aims linked to net zero and support for businesses with strong ESG aims / policies.		
5.1b	Work with partners to develop training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors to	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and		Increasing number of training and development opportunities in the low carbon	Annually to 2025	Ongoing discussions with energy providers as part of Community Benefits. Commitment to pilot funded training places with The Energy Training Academy in Midlothian for 2024/25 which will include a range of certificated training including Core Domestic Gas Safety and Air Source Heat Pumps. New courses for		

	future-proof our county and our workforce for the technological advances of the future			renewables sectors: Look to run Business Gateway workshops on Environmentally Sustainable business model – number each year with attendees		technologies and renewables sectors		post school being delivered at Wallyford Learning Campus include a Level 5 Fabrication & Welding and a Level 5 Construction Course delivered by Edinburgh College.		
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	Net Zero' expert help programme for local enterprises completed during 24/25 supported 24 businesses. Working at regional level (RPF) on development of a 'Net Zero Skills Hub' to address opportunities around green jobs.		Jan 2022: Cabinet confirms combining action 4.1e and 4.2c into this action
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)	85% (2016/17)	100% (2022)	2022	ED Officer working across rural and urban areas to address fixed broadband connectivity and speeds, and mobile not-spots. Long term absence of officer through Q1/2/3 reduced impact, currently surveying 'real' mobile service levels across EL via tech installed in ELC vehicles.		
5.1e										ACTION DELETED IN JAN 2021
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	Business Gateway continues to develop and provide resources for businesses of all stages and sizes in terms of sustainability, moves towards net zero and also looking at the circular economy. We've developed and run throughout the year a range of webinars/online sessions, from the very basics of explain sustainability and why it's important to all businesses, to more in depth sessions around incorporating net zero and sustainability into your marketing plans. Sustainability and net zero questions		

[illegible]

5.2a										Action combined with 5.2a as of December 2021.
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	ED continues to provide funding and support to East Lothian Food and Drink with ref to local food portion, markets, and supply chains.		
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	Community wealth building charter adopted by ELC, CWB officer in post since April 2024 developing support in this area.		
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, and availability of premises.	Annual	Emerging theme for support in the new Local Economy Strategy 2024/34, which was adopted in 2024.		
5.2e	Continue to develop, deliver, and support town, local, and village centre regeneration initiatives including the	LHS; LPD; EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service;	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	Dunbar CARS launched and allocating funds to TC, UKSPF investment plan delivering communities and place funding opportunities, e.g. to support reuse and regeneration of buildings in a sustainable manner.		Action combined with 5.2a as of

	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.		Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners							December 2021.
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	Dunbar CARS launched and allocating funds to TC, UKSPF investment plan delivering communities and place funding opportunities, e.g. to support reuse and regeneration of buildings in a sustainable manner.		
5.2g										Jan 2022: Cabinet confirms combining action with 5.1d
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	The Planning authority in our decision making supports the principle of uses appropriate to our town and local centres, as well as well connected, sustainable, low. carbon town, local, and rural centre development. NPF4 has brought stronger support for town centres and this will be reflected in planning decision going forward.		
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		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		Increasing number of businesses, public sector organisations and other institutions prepared for climate change impacts; increasing no. of Business Continuity Plans in place	2025	ELC is part of a City Region Deal project called Climate Ready South East Scotland, which assesses risks of climate damage to the region. It will quantify risk with a GB£ and GDP value and assesses risks to infrastructure, businesses, nature, and health. Results are due in early 2025.		

	Business Continuity Plans			Continuity Plans in place						
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	Engagement with businesses was undertaken to support the Climate Ready South East Scotland project.		
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	Economic Development; 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	Business continuity and emergency planning advice provided to local businesses through support and online resources.		

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

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	Ongoing. Encouraged and supported by Amenity Services / Tree Officer and Countryside Service / Countryside Rangers on Council-owned land. Following on from the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative in East Lothian, our 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative continues, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust – the TreeTime initiative encourages people to donate to plant trees in East Lothian. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our 'Nature Networks' project in our parks & greenspaces, which is ongoing. The Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian, approved in May 2024, guides further East Lothian Climate Forest tree planting.		
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	The Tree and Woodland Strategy was approved in June 2024. This contains an aim for mitigation that "Increase the contribution that East Lothian's existing and future woodlands make to achieving net zero carbon in line with East Lothian Council and Scottish Government targets". For adaptation the aim is "Increase resilience of East Lothian's environment and its woodlands, including using trees and woodland to adapt to Climate Change". The Strategy contains targets, policy and actions to support these aims.		

								These include retention of existing trees and woodland, as well as encouraging tree planting and woodland creation. This will help sequester emissions. This Strategy includes actions to work with others to achieve the aims. Implementation would benefit from staff resource being available.		
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	Ongoing – we continue to progress this. New opportunities are being taken wherever possible, including working with local community groups to plant wildflower areas and identifying opportunities to re-wild areas.		
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	Two Management Statements, for Butterdean and Pencraig Woods, include measures to lower carbon footprints and incorporate Climate Emergency positive actions through site management prescriptions and Ranger actions. Three Management Plans are due for renewal in 2025 and will also include these actions.		
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	Management plans set out actions to ensure habitats are well managed to ensure resilience, enhancement of biodiversity, and optimise carbon sequestration and storage where appropriate. Rangers tasked with managing access and habitats to a high standard across a wide range of countryside and coastal sites to agreed policies and procedures.		
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	The Local Biodiversity Action Plan is due for completion in 2025.		

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	<p>Remains ongoing. Key successes this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Agri-Environment Climate Scheme funding continues in supporting the conservation grazing programme at Barns Ness, North Berwick Law & Traprain Law. The impact of this was monitored in 2024 by Countryside staff and volunteers. - North Berwick- habitat enhancement for great crested at North Berwick Law marsh area. - Butterdean- Wet woodland habitat enhancement through the addition of areas of open water - Traprain- gorse removal for the enhancement of the grassland habit and fire risk reduction -Tynninghame- Spartina control/eradication on INNS. -Seafeld pond area, Dunbar, planned works for biodiversity improvements to include tree planting, improved grassland cutting regime to enhance the area for biodiversity. Blue infrastructure enhancement in terms of increasing the size of the scrape for water management and biodiversity gain. Installation of a fence to prevent bird disturbance. <p>Monitoring of species is ongoing by Rangers and Volunteers and includes include butterfly transects, bird surveys, and Eider monitoring.</p>		
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	<p>Ongoing – we continue to progress this. New opportunities are being taken wherever possible, including working with local community groups to plant wildflower areas and identifying opportunities to re-wild areas. Grassland management continues at Countryside sites including Gullane Bents, Longniddry Bents, areas at Aberlady Bay, Yellowcraig and Levenhall Links, using the cut & lift machinery purchased through Nature Restoration Funding 2021/22 allocation.</p> <p>Areas of amenity grassland have been identified and relaxed in most communities. Amenity Services’ Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project continues – we continue to deliver actions in our report on ‘Improving Nature Networks for East Lothian’s Communities’, which identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public. This included wildflower meadow areas. We continue to implement these across our communities and to raise awareness through publicity & promotion and signage on site.</p>		

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	The Countryside Ranger Service continues to manage designated sites which are owned/managed by the Council, including much of the coastline (part of the Firth of Forth SPA & SSSI). This include visitor management and education of the public. It also includes the monitoring of species and habitats along with the control of INNS.		
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	Ongoing. We continue to take opportunities to expand urban green network and tree planting opportunities. Various tree planting initiatives are underway, including 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative, which is ongoing in our communities, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our ongoing 'Nature Networks' project in our parks & greenspaces. The Countryside Ranger Service have undertaken native tree planting, funded by the Nature Restoration Fund direct allocation including hedgerow creation in North Berwick and tree planting in Levenhall Links.		
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	Countryside Services & the Landscape team work with Scottish Forestry & landowners to support tree planting on private land		
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	Key successes this year include: - Our Agri-Environment Climate Scheme funding continues in supporting the conservation grazing programme at Barns Ness, North Berwick Law & Traprain Law. The impact of this was monitored in 2024 by Countryside staff and volunteers. - North Berwick- habitat enhancement for great crested at North Berwick Law marsh area. - Butterdean- Wet woodland habitat enchantment through the addition of areas of open water - Traprain- gorse removal for the enhancement of the grassland habit and fire risk reduction -Tynninghame- Spartina control/eradication on INNS.		

								-Seafield pond area, Dunbar, planned works for biodiversity improvements to include tree planting, improved grassland cutting regime to enhance the area for biodiversity. Blue infrastructure enhancement in terms of increasing the size of the scrape for water management and biodiversity gain. Installation of a fence to prevent bird disturbance. Monitoring of species is ongoing by Rangers and Volunteers and includes include butterfly transects, bird surveys, and Eider monitoring.		
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	2022	Staff continue to share learnings and raise awareness on climate change during interpretation, group sessions and education groups where applicable. Message delivered during events with both adults and children through formal and informal education events. The Rangers delivered a total of 11 events across East Lothian in 2024.		
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	ELC Countryside staff regularly coordinate staff and volunteers to undertake coastal clean-ups. Flotsam and jetsam continue to be an issue on our coastal beaches. This is in addition to the usual litter picks and beach cleans we undertake. The litter picking stations continue to be a popular and continue to be used by groups and individuals. Partnership working has also been undertaken with Scottish Coastal Clean up in retrieving creels from the coastline. Messages relating to responsible access and 'leaving no trace' delivered as core part of Ranger duties, as well as through Social Media channels, to support enjoyment of the coast and countryside and encourage responsible use of the outdoors. Messaging in terms of social media, posters, signs and face to face interaction continues on all sites throughout the year.		
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	This project has not been carried out. East Lothian's Rangers continue to informally monitor usage of the coast by people and birdlife. Recreational disturbance continues to be monitored on an ad hoc basis by Countryside Rangers throughout the year. In addition, and specifically during the summer months, records are collected on the numbers that are camping at our sites both responsibly and irresponsibly. Rangers		

								engage with visitors where appropriate if observed to be disturbing wildlife and signage/interpretation is in place at particularly sensitive sites (e.g. where designated as part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area for wading birds) to recognise the importance of this wildlife and encourage responsible access. The Rangers & Access Officer also undertake path repairs with the volunteer Path Wardens and identify new opportunities for path creation to manage recreational impact on habitats.		
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	Countryside Service continues to support the Flood team to submit funding bids to undertake feasibility studies that include the use of nature based solutions to address future coastal flood risk.		
6.2b	Work with landowners to create connected blue networks and progress natural flood management, natural river flood protection measures / floodwater storage by improving and creating natural riverine habitats, including freshwater marshland, wetlands and Sustainable Drainage System opportunities	Flood Risk Management Strategy; Flood Protection studies; Green Networks Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; Countryside Service; landowners	Opportunities are taken to work with landowners to improve blue networks and natural flood management; Progression of natural river flood protection measures	As per Flood Risk Management Strategy; preliminary studies underway	Increased blue network connectivity and areas of natural flood management identified; natural river flood protection measures and habitat improvements progressing	2025	<p>All flood studies identified within the Forth Estuary LFRMP 2022-28 will aim to provide actions that provides the most sustainable set of actions to mitigate flood risk, this assessment/option appraisal will include natural flood management.</p> <p>All flood protection schemes and studies consider climate change within their option appraisal.</p> <p>Lothian Esk Catchment Partnership, which started in 2024, will provide a platform to assess opportunities for environmental benefit including NFM within the Esk catchment</p>		ACTION NOW COMBINED WITH ACTION 6.2E - Cabinet approved, Jan 2021
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	Ongoing. Tree planting and hedgerows incorporated into new developments where appropriate. The Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian, approved in May 2024, has further identified suitable areas for planting both trees and hedgerows in urban areas and will inform further Climate Forest tree planting locations. 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative continues in our communities, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our 'Nature Networks' project		

								(see above) in our parks & greenspaces, which is ongoing. 600 hedgerow trees were planted in North Berwick Glen in January 2023, as part of the 2022/23 Nature Restoration Fund grant allocation. Tree & hedgerow planting continues at Levenhall Links, working with the Friends of Levenhall, volunteers and the local community.		
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	Rangers continue to undertake removal of Piri-piri-bur, Rosa rugosa, Himalayan Balsam and Sea Buckthorn where appropriate from countryside sites to maintain natural habitats. This is carried out with the assistance of volunteers. In addition, work to control and eradicate Spartina from Tynninghame has also taken place. Amenity Services also continue to control INNS. Countryside staff are also working in partnership with neighbouring landowners at some sites to encourage and support INNS control. Community volunteer groups in partnership with ELC continue to control Giant Hogweed alongside the River Tyne. This project has now expanded to survey Hogweed and other invasive species along the River Esk. Amenity Services continue to control hogweed along the Esk.		
6.2e										ACTION DELETED IN JAN 2021
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	As previously reported (2023) NPF4 has been approved by the Scottish Government and is now part of the development plan. The adaptation aims of the Green Network Strategy have been included either explicitly or implicitly as part of wider policy. In addition, the Tree and Woodland Strategy includes policy and actions which will support these aims. These are: 8. Aim to combat flooding through natural environment measures: the TWS includes a section on use of trees to contribute to reducing flood risk, with policy and actions. 9. Protect key green network assets when planning and providing flood/erosion defences. The TWS contains Policy 2 on retention of trees and woodland, and supports use of trees, including existing trees and woodland, in flood risk management. 10. Consider water management holistically, including implementing multi-functional SUDS. The TWS includes Policy 6 on use of trees for water management and slope stability. It contains a target of increasing riparian woodland by 18%, from 42% of the riparian zone to 60%, to improve and support water quality. 11. Consider climate change when designing landscaping schemes and tree planting. The TWS gives promotes sustainable woodland management which is important for the resilience of woodland, and includes guidance on specifying trees for climate resilience. 13. Design public realm		

								in urban areas to create comfortable environments in a changing climate, for example places and routes that offer shelter and shade. This has been included in the Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG as previously reported. The TWS sets a canopy cover target of 30% in urban areas, and in lower SIMD areas in particular. This will provide shelter and shade throughout urban areas. The TWS settlement mapping helps show where there are opportunities and constraints to tree planting in urban areas. As part of the LDP2 preparation process, officers will review NPF4 Policy and the Green Network strategy measures. Where relevant, this will be included in LDP2.		
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	Ongoing where appropriate.		
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										
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	The East Lothian Climate Hub is now operating and are working closely with the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer to support climate action in the county.		
7.1b	Implement the Green Network Strategy to ensure connectivity,	Green Networks Strategy SPG;	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Planning Service;	Greenspace connectivity in our settlements	Current LAMS score for our urban	All settlements have connected green networks close to	Ongoing	Amenity services with assistance from the planning service are in the process of carrying out an audit of open space. The Tree and Woodland Strategy includes		

	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	LDP; Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Strategy & Development	and new developments; 'Quality of Urban Greenspace' environmental indicator: Landscape Audit Management System (LAMS) score	greenspaces as per OSS	where people live; LAMS score increasing		<p>a canopy cover target, and supporting actions, and this will encourage tree planting to enhance green spaces. The TWS also encourages improving access to woodland, both by expanding woodlands and by improving access to existing woodland.</p> <p>We continue to progress delivering actions in our communities and take opportunities wherever we can. The Green Network Strategy, having been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, should be referred to by Development Management officers in deciding planning applications. Following the Council's declaration of a Nature Emergency in October 2023 we have reviewed relevant strategies across Council service areas: this is presented in our report to Council on Tackling the Nature Emergency: Update on Actions to Protect and Enhance Nature (August 2024). A further assessment of open spaces and green networks is currently underway to inform our next Open Space Strategy (in preparation).</p>		
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	Continuing to work with the community to provide a core path link between Tynningham and Binning Wood. Work ongoing as funding identified.		
7.1d	Ensure connectivity of residential areas with local sustainable transport modes,	LTS	Roads Services; Transport Services; Planning Service;	As per LTS	As per LTS	As per LTS	ongoing	Recently installed Journey Hub signage at Wallyford, Dunbar, Musselburgh and East Linton will raise the profile of public transport services and will serve as focal points for community information and		

	including buses / bus stops, to reduce reliance on the car; maps of routes available to new residents to encourage active travel		Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners					sustainable travel maps. We plan to deliver more of this in 2025/26. Spokes Cycling Maps are still routinely made available to community groups and members of the public at events where the Active Travel team engages with the general public.		
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	Ongoing. We continue to implement the Open Space Strategy and achieve these objectives, as evidenced by successful 'In Bloom' entrants for example. Work on the next Open Space Strategy is currently underway. Our next Open Space Strategy will include key outcomes and actions in relation to tackling the Climate and Nature Emergencies, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.		
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	Community gardens promoted and supported by some of the Area Partnerships, some also funded by our One Council Partnership Fund. Not many Council-owned vacant sites, although community groups have come forward interested in progressing community growing spaces at some locations and we are working to support them where possible and feasible. Demand for community gardens, allotments/ food growing. Working with East Lothian Friendly Food Network to promote these opportunities, encourage healthy eating and reduce food waste.		
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; Economic Development				2023	Dunbar CARS launched and allocating funds to TC, UKSPF investment plan delivering communities and place funding opportunities, e.g. to support reuse and regeneration of buildings in a sustainable manner.		
7.1h	Support community initiatives such as cooking classes, community kitchens, food growing, community entertainment to reduce the need to travel and support	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	A range of initiatives is underway, working with community partners including East Lothian Friendly Food Network. Area Partnerships are supporting community pantries and community kitchens. Interaction with community bodies supports climate change and sustainability objectives locally, and community bodies are involved from both strategic and local delivery perspectives. Community based food contact points are located in each of East Lothian's		

	vibrant and sustainable communities							main towns, including community pantries and kitchens, to reduce the need to travel and support local communities.		
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	'Kit Stop' remains in place with items distributed and in use. Examples of sports club sustainability coming forward with further discussions required through CSH forums.		
7.1j	Awareness-raising campaign aimed at homeowners / 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	Amenity Services' Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public. This included communication and publicity including a public consultation to promote Nature Networks and development of a brand/logo and web page on the Council's website. The web page includes suggestions of ways that individuals can help with nature recovery in their own garden/greenspace. We continue to raise awareness through publicity & promotion and signage on site.		
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	Amenity Services are creating and enhancing biodiversity habitats in our communities and we are looking at opportunities to include blue infrastructure and wetland habitats in parks and greenspaces through our Nature Networks project. Public consultation identified that respondents were supportive of seeing more freshwater habitats and presence of water within parks and greenspaces, including raingardens, bog gardens and wetlands. These will be progressed in the coming years where possible and feasible. Blue/green network and blue/green infrastructure enhancements under consideration by internal Green Network Working Group, including natural flood management opportunities. All SuDS Designs in Planning Applications are assessed for compliance with Council's SuDS Design SPG. Countryside Service		

								<p>continues to support the delivery of Restoration Forth, which aims to restore and enhance seagrass meadows at Tynninghame.</p> <p>All SuDS Designs in Planning Applications are assessed for compliance with Council's SuDS Design SPG and requirements.</p> <p>The Countryside Service continues to support the delivery of Restoration Forth. A programme was started in 2024 to eradicate cord grass at Tynninghame and works have also undertake works on North Berwick marsh to enhance the area.</p>		
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 / ongoing	Where possible, the Planning Authority encourage applicants to submit their carbon emission reduction reports as part of their planning application. Planning officers continue to seek to ensure that our carbon emission reduction condition is complied with and would consider whether it was expedient to take enforcement action should the condition be breached.		
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 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	The East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in September 2018. Consultation is taking place on the Local Heat and Energy Strategy. NPF4 includes policy to support heat networks and LDP will include appropriate policy and spatial strategy to reflect the LHESS once adopted. The may include use of heat from minewater. The Planning Policy and Strategy team is completing a work package on integrating climate change issues into the LDP.		

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	Ongoing. NPF4 contains policy 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; blue infrastructure. This is implemented through planning decisions as part of the development plan. As above, Amenity Services are carrying out an open space audit which will provide some data on open space.		
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 / ongoing	As noted above, the Evidence Report for LDP2 has been submitted to Scottish Ministers. The Planning Service is starting to prepare LDP2. This will include a review of NPF4 policy and existing SPG including the Green Network Strategy. LDP2 will seek to incorporate relevant policy that has not already been included in NPF4.		
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	The Blindwells Business Case is under development as a basis to explore if and how a Blindwells expansion may be unlocked. A Cockenzie Technical Masterplan is in development. Any allocation here will be a matter for the review of the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. In terms of any potential Blindwells expansion, renewable energy and heat studies are being developed by Hargreaves and Taylor Wimpey. The Council's mine water geothermal feasibility study for this area focuses on Cockenzie and is now complete. The Council's study has revealed two potential abstraction sites at / for Cockenzie, with scope for two District Energy Networks, in addition to the potential at Blindwells. Together the energy opportunity in that area is circa 6-9MW (circa 2.5-3.5MW at Cockenzie and 5-6MW at Blindwells). Hydrological connectivity between Blindwells and Cockenzie is a high		

								probability, so too the need to agree how to share heat and off take. Discussion with Hargreaves, the Coal Authority, Zero Waste Scotland and SEPA have highlighted this interrelationship to ensure a wiliness to consider abstraction from two locations in same mine block area, and associated issues. Key issue for the Council is to consider the design of DENs and any scope for ELC off-takers for both sites, and to engage on associated business case development. The Cockenzie Technical masterplan will incorporate these potential opportunities as a basis to further develop the proposition.		
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	As previously reported, NPF4 requires biodiversity enhancement, which could take the form of native woodland planting. Scottish Government policy on Control of Woodland Removal requires replacement planting where woodland is lost, reflected in the Tree and Woodland Strategy. The Tree and Woodland Strategy identifies areas where native woodland planting is encouraged for connectivity. However there are difficulties with requiring native woodland planting though planning applications other than where removal takes place. Native woodland planting in suitable location is encouraged and supported. However, it is unlikely that a policy requiring this would be possible in the lifetime of the current Climate Change Strategy.		
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	This will be considered in due course through the LDP process.		
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		Amenity Services	Preparation of Local Food Growing Strategy		Local Food Growing Strategy implemented	2022	Local food growing initiatives are supported in our communities by the Area Partnerships, and community-led initiatives are underway across some communities. Work is underway on developing our Local Food Growing Strategy. We have a bank of existing allotments that we maintain but recognise the need for further / additional opportunities for food growing. We are always seeking to identify suitable sites for allotments and food growing spaces and		

	needs and aspirations of local residents, including in new developments; support and promote local food growing initiatives							we are committed to achieving that through the Food Growing Strategy and the delivery of our next Local Development Plan.		
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	Ongoing. Encouraged and supported by Amenity Services. Investigating opportunities for additional orchard / fruit tree planting through Climate Forest tree planting and where local communities come forward with proposals.		
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	Local food growing initiatives are supported in our communities by the Area Partnerships, and community-led initiatives are underway across some communities. We are currently investigating further opportunities for community food growing sites. Land availability for new allotment sites is an issue, as much of the potentially suitable land is in private ownership, however we are always seeking to identify suitable sites for allotments and food growing spaces and we are committed to achieving that through a Food Growing Strategy and the delivery of our next Local Development Plan.		
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	East Lothian Friendly Food Network underway, linked to local community food projects - will also be linked with ELC's Local Food Growing Strategy (currently in development) in due course.		
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		CCPMG; SECCO; external partners	Options appraisal involving all sectors of East Lothian's community		Appropriate citizens' engagement forum is established and functioning	2022	The East Lothian Climate Hub is operating and has positioned themselves as the first stop for communities looking to engage. They have worked closely with the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer to support public sector objectives and projects while progressing their own engagement work, including surveying hundreds of East Lothian residents to create an East Lothian-wide Vision for		

	communities in the local planning of our Climate Emergency Response (e.g., Citizens' Assembly; Climate Change Forum / Network)							<p>a Thriving, Sustainable Future.</p> <p>The Sustainability & Climate Change Officer undertook in-person consultation on the draft ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 in each of the 6 Area Partnership geographic boundaries. They collected responses from over 70 individuals, which will inform the final version of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Chief Planner attends the East Lammermuir Electricity Infrastructure Developments Liaison Meeting with developers of energy projects in the area and East Lammermuir Council. The purpose of the group is to identify and address community points of concern. Consultation with communities was undertaken in support of the Evidence Report for the LDP and the Tree and Woodland Strategy. Members of the public and organisations raised issues related to climate change mitigation and adaption. These were taken into account in preparing and approving these documents.</p>		
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	2022	No progress since last year, however the changes documented at December 2023 have continued in 2024, and there are plans to have a Communications campaign to support the updated ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.		
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	2022	No progress since last year, however there are plans for the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer to work alongside the East Lothian Climate Hub to create an East Lothian-wide climate change plan which is accessible for and applicable to individuals, businesses, and public sector partners in the county.		
7.4d	Support and help to promote national			Participation in national	Currently participate in	Participation in national	Ongoing to 2025	Last year's engagement was replicated this year.		

	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	promotional campaigns; social media engagement	Scotland's Climate Week, Earth Hour etc.	promotional campaigns; social media engagement				
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	No progress since last year. It is currently planned to support Area Partnerships with this action in the draft ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.		
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	2022	The Tree and Woodland Strategy encourages community and individual action in its 'What you can do' section. It promotes the national Tree Warden scheme, and has a Target to develop a Tree Warden Scheme in East Lothian and recruit volunteers from each of the main settlements. Action 35 is to involve communities in tree planting and maintenance of new trees through this scheme.		
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	2022	Action completed last year. The web page now contains links to the draft ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.		
7.4h	Undertake an awareness raising campaign to promote			Awareness levels measured via		Increasing levels of awareness	Ongoing to 2025	No progress since last year, however engagement took place with several community climate action groups on an		

	tackling climate change, reducing emissions and how everyone can #makeadifference ; including information provision and promoting behaviour change		SECCO; Corporate Communications	Scottish Household Survey	74% of adults in 2018			ad hoc basis. ELC's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer and LHEES Officer appeared at several events throughout the year, including the Green Futures Festival in March.		
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	No progress since last year but events are planned for the coming year.		
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	Amenity Services continue to support community events and activities in our parks and greenspaces across our communities.		
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	The Countryside Team now supports and manages over 400 volunteers across the sites and paths that we manage. New groups formed 'Way of West (WOW)' plus 'Gullane and Longniddry area Volunteers'. We also provide support and assistance, where appropriate to 'In Bloom' and other community groups.		
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; Connected Communities	Proportion of Community Councils with local Community Resilience Plans (currently 40% in 2018/19)	10% (2016/17)	75% (2022)	2022	No progress since last year. There is a workshop planned in the coming year to help community councils improve their resilience.		

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	2022	ELC's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer is working with the East Lothian Climate Hub to support improved resilience in communities.		
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	2022	No progress since last year.		
7.5d	Work in partnership to support and assist our communities to prepare Climate Ready Response Plans for their area		SECCO; Connected Communities; 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	No progress since last year.		
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; Connected Communities; 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	No progress since last year, though there are planned events in collaboration with the East Lothian Climate Hub in 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	<p>In 2024, the Outline Design of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme was completed and published and Council approved the project to move to Stage 5, the Statutory Approval Phase.</p> <p>In March 2024, the formal Outline Design was published, this started a period of notification that allowed a period whereby objections to the scheme could be made.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Scheme will be taken to full Council in early 2025 for a decision on next steps. If no 'valid' objections are received then Council must take a decision to either confirm the reject the proposed scheme.</p>		
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	<p>As part of Scottish Government's review of flood protection schemes, in March 2023, SG removed Haddington FPS from the list of "Cycle 1" schemes at that point, removing the current eligibility for 80% contribution.</p> <p>It is anticipated that all schemes removed from the list of "Cycle 1" schemes in March 2024 will be prioritised alongside the "Cycle 2" schemes, a new list of schemes submitted for the 2022-2028 flood risk management cycle ("Cycle 2").</p>		