

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 29 April 2025

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2025-30

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the proposed East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025-30 and its associated Action Plan for approval.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 approve the proposed East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025-30.
- 2.2 approve the proposed East Lothian Council Climate Change Action Plan 2025-30.
- 2.3 approve the monitoring arrangements proposed in the draft Climate Change Strategy, which is to review documents annually to monitor progress and update as needed.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2019, East Lothian Council declared a climate emergency. In January 2020, it adopted the East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2020-25. That Strategy covered a period of 5 years and is due to be refreshed to reflect the latest policies, activities, and developments.
- 3.2 Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, as a public body, East Lothian Council is expected to lead by example in reducing carbon emissions, contributing to climate change adaptation and acting sustainably. It has a statutory duty to contribute to national emission reduction targets and to help deliver the national adaptation plan.
- 3.3 Over the course of the 2020-25 Climate Change Strategy cycle, Scope 1 and 2 emissions (plus transmission losses from electricity) were reduced by about 20%. However, we now more accurately report our emissions

from staff commuting, which are higher than previously thought. We must continue to reduce our emissions amid a challenging time for public finances in order to achieve net zero emissions by 2045.

- 3.4 East Lothian is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. The regional climate adaptation project Climate Ready South East Scotland gathered over 250 'climate stories' from East Lothian, where residents shared how they have been affected by flooding, coastal change, and the impacts of unseasonal weather. We must accelerate how we prepare for the impacts of climate change alongside our local and regional partners.
- 3.5 The Climate Change Strategy 2025-30 will update East Lothian Council's approach to tackling climate change. This approach will make use of the latest guidance and best practice, align with recent national policy developments, and fulfil our statutory obligations relating to climate change and sustainability.
- 3.6 The proposed Strategy was developed collaboratively across every service in the Council. The organisation-wide approaches were agreed by the Climate and Nature Emergency Group of officers. Actions in the proposed Action Plan were then co-written by services across the Council. The proposed Strategy was drafted to capture the common approaches and challenges across these actions. Elected Members steered the draft Strategy at a Members' Briefing. Public and staff consultation took place in autumn 2024, where nearly 100 individuals and organisations responded, including the East Lothian Climate Action Network which represents over 80 organisations. Consultation with children took place in January 2025, where over 250 learners across 15 classrooms answered a survey after undertaking a trial Learning for Sustainability exercise. Comments from these consultations were considered alongside relevant services and incorporated into the proposed Strategy & Action Plan where possible.
- 3.7 The proposed Strategy is divided into the following: an Executive Summary; Context & Overview; the new content of the Strategy, including our organisation-wide approaches and details of 4 themes; the Monitoring & Reporting; and a Glossary.
- 3.8 The Strategy sets out the outcomes we are working towards across 4 Themes, which are:
 - Governance: All our employees and partners understand how climate change affects us and what our responsibilities are.
 - Assets: Our buildings and vehicles are lower emission and adapted for climate change.
 - Services: We will design our services to be lower impact and resilient to climate-induced disruption.
 - Place: Through partnership working, we enhance nature and our built environment. Communities benefit from the energy transition.
- 3.9 The proposed approach to climate adaptation is to follow an urgency-based framework. In this approach, we identify areas and operations at greatest risk from climate change, assess whether we are adapting

sufficiently already, and plan to improve our response where there is a shortfall. This is the methodology used in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.

- 3.10 The proposed approach to climate mitigation is to follow the mitigation hierarchy. This is a framework which orders the types of changes that are effective at reducing emissions. We will (in order of priority): avoid activities which create emissions where possible, reduce the level of emissions-creating activities, and lastly replace emissions-intensive activities with low- or no-emissions ones.
- 3.11 The Scottish Government will set 5-year carbon budgets; however, it is unclear what these budgets will be or how councils will be expected to contribute. Therefore, proposed carbon budgets for the lifetime of the Climate Change Strategy are based on what is feasible for East Lothian Council. We are setting 3 carbon budgets for different scenarios due to uncertainty about our trajectory and about resources for climate action.
- In a Transformational scenario, in which we are best placed to reach net zero by 2045, our carbon budget is 67,800 tonnes of CO_{2e}.
 - In a Continual scenario, our carbon budget is 73,360 tonnes of CO_{2e}.
 - In a Business-as-usual scenario, our carbon budget is 75,890 tonnes of CO_{2e}.
- 3.12 The proposed Action Plan comprises over 200 actions, co-developed and co-written with the service that will deliver them. All actions have a quantitative performance indicator that is within the power of the service to deliver or monitor. Some actions will affect how the wider county becomes climate-ready and low-emissions, but actions are designed to be achievable by the Council. Indicators will be reported for the preceding financial year to align with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting period.
- 3.13 The proposed monitoring arrangement is to present a combined summary of the East Lothian Council Climate Change Action Plan and the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report to Members annually. Currently this is presented to Members early in the calendar year to report on progress the preceding year, and it is proposed this timeline continues. Any necessary changes to the Strategy or Action Plan should be made at that time after approval from the Climate and Nature Emergency Group of officers.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The outcomes proposed in the ELC Climate Change Strategy 2025-30 align with the objectives of the ELC Council Plan 2022-27.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – Climate change has so far been addressed using existing service budgets and grant funding. Continuing to reduce emissions and successfully reaching net zero by 2045 will be a challenge without significantly more external funding. Funding for climate adaptation can be challenging to find. Some actions in the proposed Climate Change Action Plan are to identify the cost of decarbonisation so we can undertake medium-term financial planning to 2045. We are working closely with other public bodies in Scotland to identify and secure the necessary resources to deliver climate action. All spending on climate change will ultimately be likely to save money because the cost of inaction will be far greater than of sufficiently mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The proposed East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025-30 is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 7.2 The proposed East Lothian Council Climate Change Action Plan 2025-30 is set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 7.3 Supporting Document 1: Integrated Impact Assessment has been added to the Members' Library.
- 7.4 Supporting Document 2: Children's Rights and Well-being Impact Assessment has been added to the Members' Library.

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CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

2025–30

Sustainable success in a climate-affected future



The East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025-30 outlines how we will respond to the climate emergency, adapt to climate change and how we will continue reducing our emissions to work towards reaching Net Zero by 2045

Cover: Bass Rock from John Muir Way, East Lothian – Cheyne Hamm

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

East Lothian Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and adopted its *Climate Change Strategy 2020-25* the following year. This strategy is created to refresh that document and to align with the latest guidance from the **Sustainable Scotland Network** and **Audit Scotland**. It also aligns to other updated policies including our Council Plan, and to new legislation such as *National Planning Framework 4* and the *Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3*.

Our approach to climate adaptation is to follow an **urgency-based framework**. Southeast Scotland is already about 1.2°C above last century's average temperatures, and we see the effects of climate change with wetter winters and dramatic coastal erosion. With these effects in mind, we identify areas and operations at greatest risk from climate change, assess whether we are adapting sufficiently already, and plan to improve our response where there is a shortfall. This is the methodology used in the *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment*.

Our approach to climate mitigation is to follow the **mitigation hierarchy**. This is a framework which orders the types of changes that are effective at reducing emissions. Following this hierarchy will identify proven effective methods of reducing emissions and is compatible with the need to make financial savings. We will (in order of priority): avoid activities which create emissions where possible, reduce the level of emissions-creating activities, and lastly replace emissions-intensive activities with low- or no-emissions ones.

Like all public sector bodies in Scotland, we have a legal obligation to reach **net zero** emissions by 2045. Emissions should be as low as possible on the way to net zero to keep global warming levels as low as possible.

The more global warming we mitigate, the less climate change we will need to adapt to.

The Scottish Government will set carbon budgets, which are emissions reduction targets that will keep global warming levels low if met, and we will align with this approach. As a local authority we experience significant policy and financial uncertainty, so this Strategy presents three budgets based on three possible futures with varying levels of investment and legislative change. Carbon budgets range from a Transformational scenario, in which we are best placed to meet net zero by 2045, to a Business-as-Usual scenario, which would leave a significant gap.

1. **Transformational** (67,800 tonnes CO₂e)
2. **Continual** (73,360 tonnes CO₂e)
3. **Business-as-Usual** (75,890 tonnes CO₂e)

Pages 14-17 describe these budgets in more detail.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The strategy divides our climate actions into four key themes:



Actions in these themes are tied together by shared approaches and action types.

Themes are broken down into Focus Areas, which address specific areas of the outcomes:

- **Governance:**
Leadership, Adaptation Capability, Carbon Literacy, Procurement, and Resources
- **Assets:**
Buildings and Transport & Vehicles
- **Services:**
Education & Training; Waste; Planning; Libraries, Parks & Sports; and Care
- **Place:**
Communities, Green & Blue Networks, Commuting, Economy, and Homes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There will be challenges in delivering the aims of this Strategy. Pressures on public finance mean that finding the resource for climate projects will be difficult. We partially overcome this challenge by focussing on actions in the top tiers of the **Mitigation Hierarchy** - 'Avoid' and 'Reduce' - but there may still be a gap. Nevertheless, the cost of inaction will outweigh the cost of adapting and reaching net zero. Delivery of the Strategy must be flexible as new opportunities and unforeseen changes appear in the coming years. There will also be a challenge when we begin reporting on emissions from procurement, which could make it appear that our emissions rise significantly and will require more planning to address. Lastly, East Lothian has a growing population so in some cases we may need to ramp up activity to provide adequate services.

This Strategy is paired with **East Lothian Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2025-30**.

Almost every council service has actions to complete, which they co-created with the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer. Actions were developed using logic modelling, which maps the action against available resources and a desired outcome. Every action has a quantitative performance indicator which will be reported annually by the action owner so that we can track progress objectively year-on-year. The Action Plan explains in detail what climate action we plan to do, while the Strategy text explains how we approach it more generally.

Progress delivering this Strategy will be overseen quarterly by officers at the Climate and Nature Emergency Group and by Elected Members at the Cross-Party Climate Change and Sustainability Forum. Updates on actions will be collected annually and reported alongside the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report, which is submitted every November and is a statutory obligation. The Sustainability & Climate Change Officer will produce a summary of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report, the Strategy, and the Action Plan to report to Cabinet annually for public scrutiny. All will be publicly available in Members Library reports and linked to on the Council's climate change web page.

CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

Strategy Purpose & Structure

The East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025–30 is our plan to respond to the climate emergency. It outlines how we will adapt to climate change and how we will continue reducing our emissions to work towards reaching net zero by 2045. It explains how we are approaching climate adaptation and mitigation as an organisation, and it lists actions for individual services which support that wider approach. This document will not be able to cover everything the Council does in response to climate change, but it shows how we are going to enhance our planned and proposed climate actions.

This Strategy sets out how we are doing what we can with what we have in order to set ourselves up for success in a climate-affected future.

The Strategy begins by reviewing the background to climate action, including the successes of the previous Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025. It also explains the science of climate change and the predicted climate impacts of climate change in East Lothian. It then explains why we must act, including policy drivers such as the UK's nationally determined contributions, Scotland's target of net zero by 2045, and our own declaration of a climate emergency.

It then explains our organisation's approach to climate adaptation and to climate mitigation. Those principles form the basis of the entire plan that follows. Our corporate approach to climate adaptation is to follow an urgency-based framework, where we identify and address the most immediate risks to our operations. Our organisational approach to climate change mitigation is to follow the mitigation hierarchy, where we look to avoid making emissions as a top priority, reduce emissions if this is not possible, and replace high-emissions activities with low-emissions technologies. Offsetting is not currently part of our strategy, because there is still scope to reduce our own emissions.

The bulk of the Strategy explains how we can achieve climate-positive outcomes from our various operations and roles. These functions are divided into four key themes: **Governance, Assets, Services** and **Place**. Each theme has an outcome statement, which is what we aim to achieve by 2030. The themes are further divided into Focus Areas, which describe how we will improve the resilience and sustainability of specific functions and areas of influence. See the diagram below for a visual overview of the Strategy's structure:

Communication is the golden thread throughout the Strategy. Each Focus Area of the Strategy contains a Communication Objectives section to explain how we plan to share our plans and improve understanding of the need to act. It is important for people both within and outwith the Council to understand what climate action we are taking, why we are doing it, and how they can participate. There will be a **Make a Difference** communications campaign to support the Climate Change Strategy 2025–30.

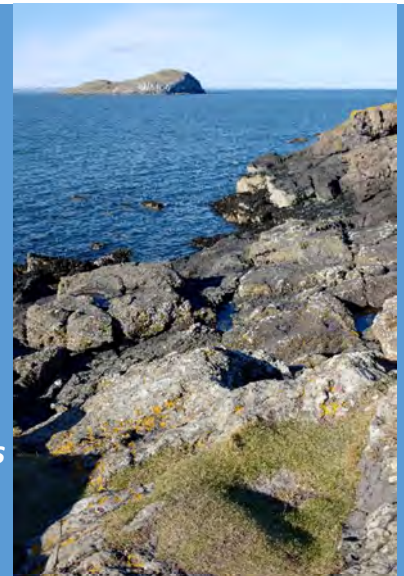
CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

The Greenhouse Effect

Climate change is the shift in weather patterns caused by global warming and greenhouse gas particles in the atmosphere. These weather patterns include higher average temperature and more intense rainfall. Greenhouse gases also make the seas more acidic and reduce air quality. These shifts are extremely dangerous to humans and the natural environment because our way of life depends on a narrow window of climatic conditions that is now being disrupted. The world ocean and our natural environment have absorbed the impacts of climate change, but continued industrial exploitation means that planetary systems may soon reach 'tipping points' where they harm rather than help regulate the climate. Therefore, what is occurring is a climate and nature emergency.



The ocean is our greatest ally in the face of climate change. It has absorbed about 90% of the excess heat from global warming and 30% of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. However, this has come at a cost. The ocean is becoming more acidic and warmer, which damages marine life that people depend upon and reduces the ocean's ability to continue absorbing carbon dioxide. We have a close relationship with the ocean, but climate change means sea levels are rising and our coast is eroding faster.



Greenhouse gases are emitted by human activities which burn carbon-based fuels like petroleum and natural gas, which are called 'fossil fuels.' These activities might include driving petrol cars or using gas boilers. Greenhouse gases can also come from agriculture and from industries which make goods. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Climate change is a difficult issue to govern because it is a global issue – emissions generated elsewhere will affect us in East Lothian and vice versa. The rapid industrialisation which is enabled by burning fossil fuels also generates significant wealth for certain countries, while others have not been able to see those benefits. Countries that have not benefitted from industrialisation are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Most greenhouse gases were emitted in the past, and we are already locked into a significant amount of climate change, which will continue even if all emissions were to stop today. It is a critical global imperative to cut emissions and adapt to climate change rapidly to avoid costly and devastating levels of disruption to humans and natural systems. Every fraction of warming that we can avoid will save lives and avert damage.

CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

Drivers for Change

The science behind climate change is unambiguous. It is accelerated by human activity and we must cut emissions rapidly to avoid a global climate breakdown. We acknowledged this when we declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published the East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2025. This strategy must be updated to reflect the latest guidance and developments. We are also guided by a trauma-informed approach and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.¹

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, which was signed in 2015 and commits us to achieving net zero emissions by the year 2050.² Scotland has gone one step further in the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions) (Scotland) Act 2019³ and committed to reaching net zero by 2045. We as a local authority must align with and contribute to achieving these targets. Previously set national targets were determined to be infeasible and will be altered in 2025.⁴ We will now set our own targets based on our current trajectory of emissions reduction, aligning with the Scottish Government's approach where possible.

This Strategy is also aligned with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3,⁵ which was adopted in September 2024. We have focussed our adaptation actions on the relevant Outcomes of the Plan from the outset of the Strategy's development. This includes identifying nature-based solutions to climate impacts, working with communities to improve their resilience to climate change, and delivering our services accounting for extreme weather and climatic shifts.

Adaptation to climate change and emissions cuts must be made in a challenging time for public finances. Inflation and the cost-of-living crisis, with all the pressures they bring, restrict our ability to undertake unilateral transformative change. However, we also recognise that the cost of inaction will be far greater if we do not act and allow climate breakdown to affect us unmitigated.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/1/contents/enacted>

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/15/contents>

⁴ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2024/03/20/scotlands-2030-climate-goals-are-no-longer-credible/>

⁵ <https://adaptation.scot/about/about-the-scottish-governments-national-adaptation-plan-snap3/>

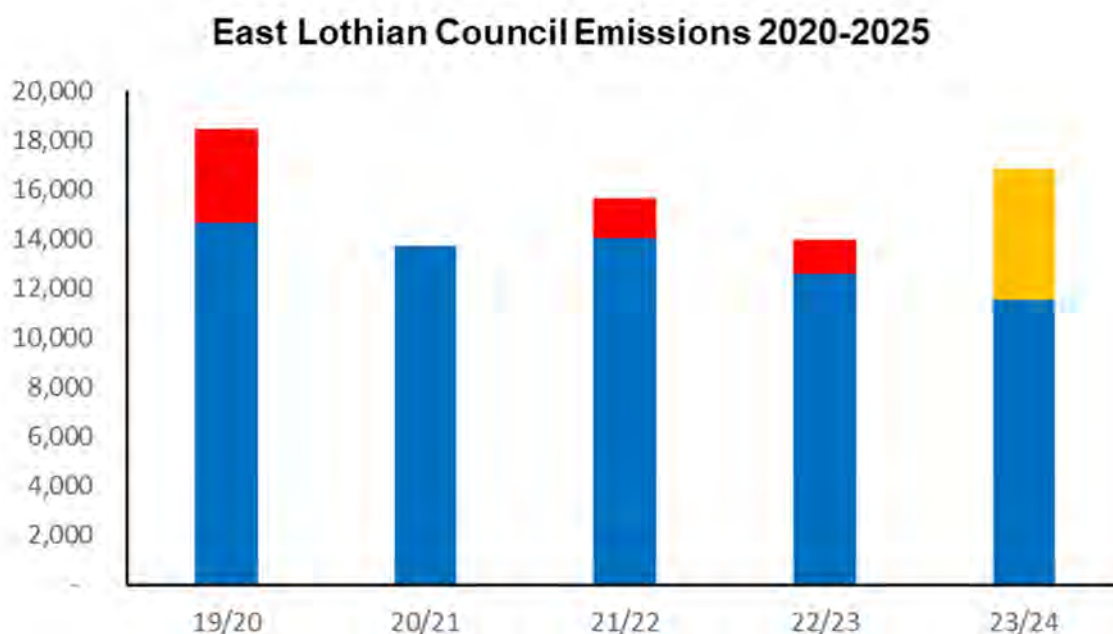
CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

Previous Strategy (2020–25)

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy 2020–25 was one of the first climate strategies passed by a local authority in Scotland. It was innovative for its clear, well-defined outcomes and Council-wide approach to climate action. It balanced whole-Council policies with actions for individual services. The Strategy had a robust process for collecting data annually and reporting it to Council, which tracked progress well and kept climate change on the agenda.

Many of the previous Strategy's aims were achieved. A significant portion of our fleet is now low- or zero-emissions, we have the sixth highest rate of recycling in Scotland, and new schools are built to a high standard of energy efficiency. Actions from the previous Strategy which we are no longer progressing or cannot complete on our own have not been carried forward.

By the end of the 2020-25 Strategy cycle, Scope 1 and 2 emissions (plus transmission losses from electricity) were reduced by about 20%. However, we now robustly report on emissions from staff commuting, which are higher than previously thought. This is still a positive development because we better understand and report on our emissions, and we can now identify our priorities for climate action going forward. The 2020-2025 Strategy laid the foundations for well-integrated climate action and robust reporting, and it allows us to set clear targets for the coming Strategy cycle. The diagram below shows our emissions over the 2020-2025 Strategy's lifetime:



The blue bars represent our emissions which are measured consistently, the red bars represent emissions from staff commuting estimated by the staff commuting survey & Zero Waste Scotland's tool, and the gold bar represents emissions from staff commuting & homeworking as measured by CalCommuter.

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-30

Development

Developing this strategy began with a Strategy Action Plan. Actions were co-developed with the services responsible for delivering them and are based on recommendations by Audit Scotland, the Sustainable Scotland Network, and actions from the Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025. New actions were also created to capture the excellent work on climate action being done across the council already. Some actions from the 2020-2025 Strategy were not brought forward to this Strategy because we have stopped doing them or because they are outwith our scope of influence.

Actions were written using logic modelling, where the action is based on the services' available resources and directly linked with a desired outcome. This includes maximising co-benefits, which are positive effects from climate action additional to improving climate readiness or sustainability – for example, addressing health or inequality. Actions are measured quantitatively, with either a yes-no answer or a numerical value so that year-on-year progress can be tracked objectively. A few actions are indicators of our performance, which may be the result of several individual projects.

The Strategy text was written after the Action Plan and divides the actions into Focus Areas. These Focus Areas group our actions thematically based on a shared challenge, approach, or target. The thematic Focus Areas are more approachable than dividing up actions by Service. Focus Areas will also not change in the event of a restructure. The text captures the unique circumstances of each Focus Area, links actions to our overall approach, and makes connections to other Focus Areas.

Elected Members have been involved from the outset by consulting them at the Cross-Party Climate Change & Sustainability Forum and at a Members' Seminar. Staff and the public were consulted on the Strategy in autumn 2024. There were 4 sessions for council officers to respond to and feed back on the Strategy. There were also in-person drop-in sessions at each of the 6 East Lothian Area Partnership geographies, where the public shared their views with our Sustainability & Climate Change Officer. Feedback was also collected online on the East Lothian Consultation Hub.

Per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024,⁶ children have a right to be heard in matters affecting them and for their voices to make a difference. With this in mind, children were also consulted on the objectives of the Climate Change Strategy. This was done by conducting a classroom activity on sustainability in pilot classrooms, followed by a poll of students which was entered by the teacher. The activities and questions were made accessible for children and aligned with Learning for Sustainability objectives. The results of the polls were that, with some exceptions, children found more value in sustainability activities outwith the classroom. This includes learning outside, enhancing green spaces, and getting involved in community groups. Children surveyed tended to prefer activity-based objectives over learning-based objectives. This process had an influence on the direction of the Strategy by encouraging officers to include more hands-on activities in the Education & Training section of the Climate Change Strategy and by improving the balance between energy-focussed and environment-focussed goals in the Strategy.

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/1/contents/enacted>

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-30

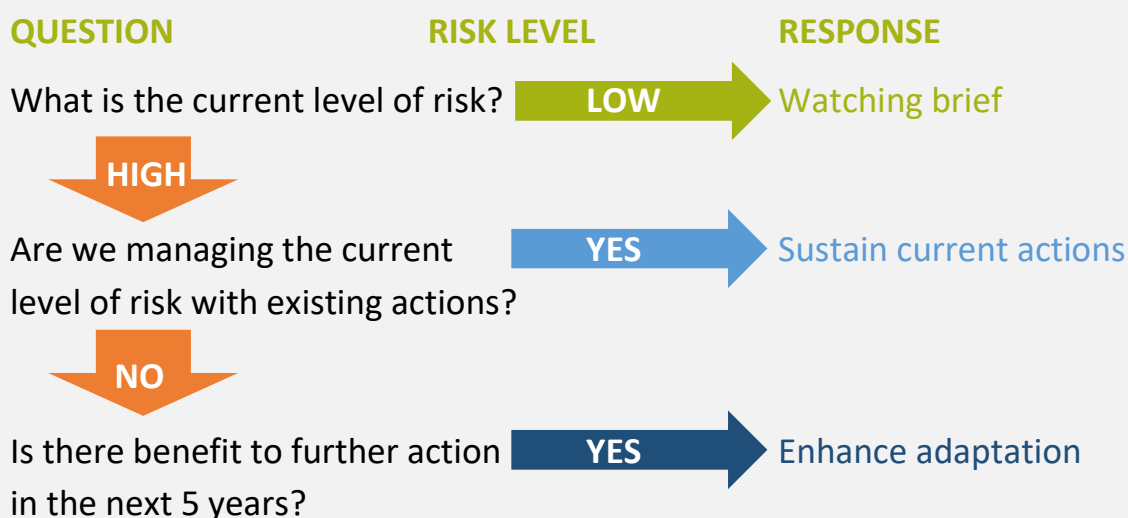
Adaptation

Climate Change is already affecting us, and we must adapt to sustain our livelihoods. Southeast Scotland is experiencing average temperatures about 1.2 degrees Celsius above last century's average and this is causing hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Globally, temperatures surpassed 1.5°C above pre-industrial times in 2024 – this may not be a permanent shift but it is a clear warning sign. Given these effects are already here, we must improve our adaptation to climate change without losing focus on reducing emissions.

In East Lothian, the most prevalent climate risks we are already experiencing locally are flooding, coastal erosion, and heat. Rainfall events are already 20% heavier and on our current trajectory this may accelerate a further 10-20%. Sea level rise will probably be a further 10-20cm by the 2050s, and our number of summer days will likely quadruple. For more information about climate projections, see the Met Office's Local Authority Climate Service.⁷ All these climate risks are at the forefront of our minds when we adapt to climate change.

We will adapt using the Climate Change Committee's Risk Assessment⁸ methodology, which uses an urgency-based framework to assess the climate adaptation actions that will provide the greatest benefit to resilience in the next 5 years. We will improve our understanding of how climate change affects our operations and area, and we will choose the most effective and lowest-emissions adaptation method which addresses the area of greatest urgency.

How the assessment identifies the most urgent climate risks:



⁷ <https://climatedataportal.metoffice.gov.uk/pages/lacs>

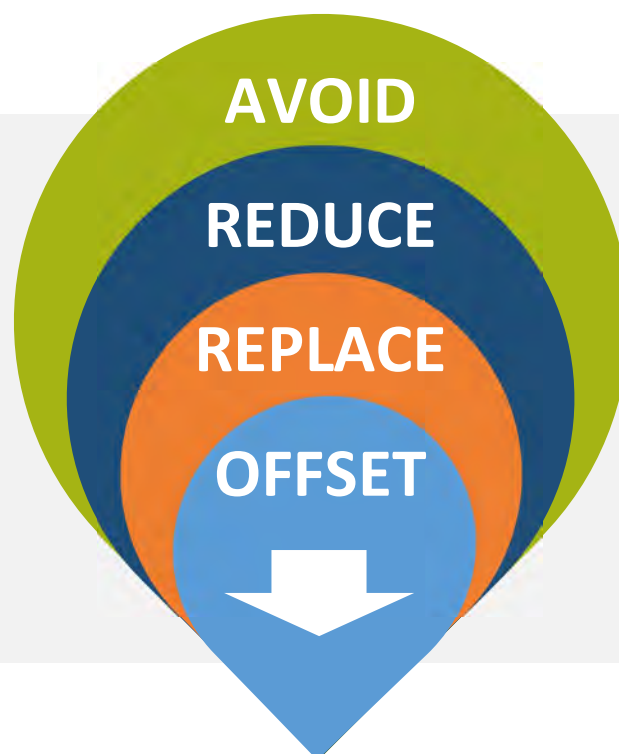
⁸ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61e54d8f8fa8f505985ef3c7/climate-change-risk-assessment-2022.pdf>

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-30

Mitigation

Mitigating climate change is about reducing our emissions so that climate change is less severe. *The faster we reach net zero, the less climate change we will have to adapt to.* We must cut our emissions reliably and effectively within a constrained budget, so we will adapt the mitigation hierarchy to appropriate council operations. By looking to avoid creating emissions in the first place, we will align emissions reduction with the need to focus on core council services. The following diagram is called the 'Mitigation Hierarchy' and visualises which climate mitigation actions are the highest priority.

We will also look to reduce the emissions we produce at source by improving the efficiency of our operations. This can be achieved by using more efficient technologies, or by thinking logistically about how we work & travel to minimise the emissions we create from our activities.



CARBON BUDGETS

We must achieve net zero emissions by 2045, along with the rest of Scotland. To ensure we reach this goal, we must set interim targets that are credible, aligned with a national strategy, and sufficiently funded to make the necessary changes. We do not know what will be in the Scottish Government's national strategy, but we know it will adopt a carbon budgeting approach.

Carbon budgeting means that we will set ourselves a limit on the emissions we can produce while keeping global warming below 1.5°C. In the United Kingdom, carbon budgets are set for a 5 year period with steadily reducing annual targets to keep the total below the 'budget.'

We are uncertain about a few key factors. One is policy uncertainty. Many of the changes that will make the biggest difference to us as a local authority happen at a national level, such as the emissions factor of electricity. Another type of uncertainty is about funding. Emissions reduction and climate adaptation projects are often dependent on external funding, which is sporadic and allocated year-by-year. Lastly there is a scientific uncertainty: we do not know exactly the precise effect each of our actions will have.

We will therefore set carbon budgets for three different scenarios set out on the following pages at varying levels of ambition and capacity. All scenarios are data-based and feasible based on our current trajectory of emissions reduction.



CARBON BUDGETS

Transformational scenario

These are the targets we are aiming for, as this is the scenario in which we are best placed to reach net zero by 2045. In this scenario, governments at all levels realise that reaching net zero is shifting from a long-term to a medium-term target and they make the required level of investment and legislative change that enable us to swiftly decarbonise our operations. Grid electricity decarbonises quickly because national energy projects come online and innovative heat solutions take burden off the grid, which allows for quicker electrification. We will reduce emissions using proven and reliable methods, including producing our own energy, which improves resilience and reduces cost in the medium-term. In this scenario, we are able to set ourselves an absolute target of cutting 1,100 tonnes CO₂e per annum, which is approximately equal to year-on-year changes leading up to our baseline year of 2023/24.

The main risk to realising this scenario is finance. Due to funding challenges, there would need to be significant external funding to enable us to think about energy in the medium-term and improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings. Barriers to decarbonisation of our fleet, such as cost and meeting the requirements of insurers, will need to be overcome. Achieving these ambitious targets is also likely to depend on large renewable developments coming online, which themselves depend on upgrades to the national electricity grid. Meeting our transformational targets is ultimately lower-risk and lower-cost because we will be more likely to reach net zero emissions by 2045 and will have less climate change to adapt and respond to.

Our emissions budget in this scenario is 67,800 tonnes CO₂e and our interim targets are:

2024/25	15,760
2025/26	14,660
2026/27	13,560
2027/28	12,460
2028/29	11,360

CARBON BUDGETS

Continual scenario

This carbon budget assumes that the rate at which our emissions have been falling is accurate, but the starting point should have been higher because we were underestimating emissions from commuting. In this scenario, there are still hurdles to climate change mitigation locally and nationally. We will continue to prioritise energy use reduction, which also saves costs, and lay the groundwork for using low emissions technologies. Completing the actions in our Action Plan proves effective and we are able to accelerate emissions reduction compared to our expected trajectory.

In this scenario, resources remain our biggest risk. Because of this, we may not be able to continually reduce emissions while delivering an acceptable level of services. While this scenario represents improvement over business-as-usual, the rate of progress tapers off and challenging residual emissions remain by 2030, which means we will need more adaptation to climate change and redoubled efforts to reach our legal requirement to achieve net zero emissions in the subsequent 15 years to 2045.

Our emissions budget for this scenario is 73,360 tonnes CO₂e and our interim targets are as follows:

2024/25	15,950
2025/26	15,210
2026/27	14,580
2027/28	14,050
2028/29	13,570



CARBON BUDGETS

Business-as-usual scenario

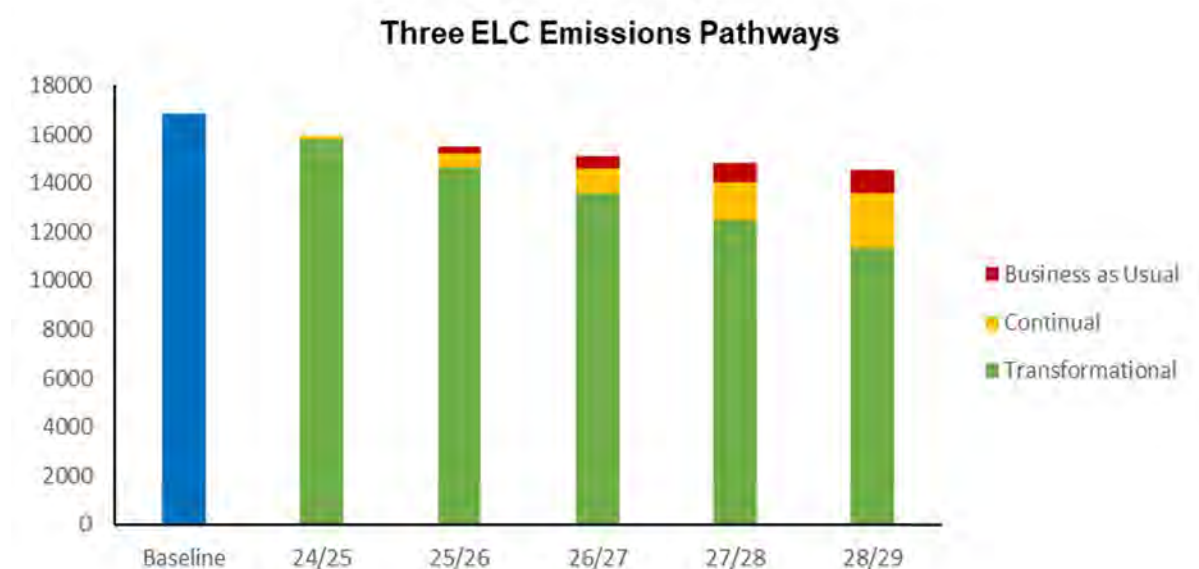
This carbon budget is modelled on the assumption that, because emissions from staff commuting are higher than previously estimated, our emissions reduction has not been as substantial as suggested. In this scenario, funding crises in the public sector continue and the need to deliver statutory services at the lowest possible cost takes precedence over value. We will carry on making our operations more efficient, thinking about mitigating climate change in various operations, and making incremental changes. This model assumes that grid electricity will decarbonise gradually as it has in prior years. Our rate of emissions reduction will slow dramatically by 2030 if this scenario is realised.

Our growing estate and inadequate decarbonisation of grid electricity are the risks to meeting these targets. If there is not enough renewable energy capacity to meet the demand for electricity, there is a risk to meeting these targets despite improving electrification. We may be able to realise this scenario with relatively minimal investment, but this will also create risk. If we are unable to meet or exceed these targets, we will face a significant challenge to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 and will have to adapt even more to our changed climate.

Our emissions budget for this scenario is: 75,890 tonnes CO₂e and our interim targets are as follows:

2024/25	15,950
2025/26	15,490
2026/27	15,120
2027/28	14,800
2028/29	14,530

These three possible future pathways can be:



CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-30

Outcomes

By 2030 we want to achieve the following outcomes for each of our key 4 themes:



These four Outcomes are easy-to-remember and achievable aims which every service in the council can support. If we achieve them by 2030, we will be positioned well to thrive in a climate-affected world. The Outcomes capture both sides of climate action - **adaptation** and **mitigation** - and are supported by organisation-wide approaches.

GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME: *All our staff and partners understand how climate change affects us, and our responsibilities.*

Climate actions under the Governance theme are those that improve our understanding, reporting, and commitment to climate action. These actions will help us be a climate-ready and climate-positive organisation. The outcome means that, by 2030, we should have a deep understanding of how we are contributing to climate change and how it affects what we do. We should also be clearly demonstrating how we are dealing with the dual challenge of mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Focus Area: **LEADERSHIP**

Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the public sector is tasked with leadership in the climate emergency. We must contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets, deliver Scotland's climate Adaptation Plan, and act sustainably.⁹ Communities look to councils to implement climate action in a locally-informed way. Local authorities are responsible for about 2% of emissions in the UK, but according to the Climate Change Committee, can have a much wider influence in the area.¹⁰ This is why leadership is integrated throughout the Strategy as we improve our governance and implement proven-effective climate action across our operations.

This Strategy is focused on what is within our powers, but this does capture some actions we do to affect the wider area. We have already adopted a **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy** (LHEES), which guides the region's approach to improving energy efficiency in homes and switching to low-emissions sources of heat. We will also produce a Good Food Nation Plan, which will set out how we lower the emissions from food supply in the county. We will use our convening powers to co-develop a climate change plan for the entire county in partnership with communities and public sector partners. Communications is also a critical part of leadership, which is why objectives to improve communications and behaviour change are embedded throughout the Strategy.

The governance of this strategy will be led by the Climate and Nature Emergency Group and by the Cross-Party Climate Change & Sustainability Forum for Elected Members. Progress implementing the Strategy and its Action Plan will be reported annually, so Members and the public will be able to scrutinise our progress and senior management will have an opportunity to consider how we overcome challenges. The Strategy draws our climate action plans in one place and facilitates us working as a team to tackle climate change, recognising

⁹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents>

¹⁰ https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/LA-Report_final.pdf

that every team has a responsibility to deliver our shared vision. For more information about leadership, see Sustainable Scotland Network's guidance for public bodies.¹¹



Communications Objectives: Sustainability will be part of our everyday thinking as a Council. Residents, partners, and staff should clearly understand what our sustainability goals are and how we plan to get there. Council staff, reports, and press statements should clearly link our work to climate outcomes where appropriate and should use consistent and accurate language.

Focus Area: **ADAPTATION CAPABILITY**

Adaptation Capability is a framework used by Adaptation Scotland to support public sector bodies. Moving through this framework will improve how prepared we are to deal with the risks posed by climate change. The effects of climate change are accelerating – we are already locked into significant sea level rise and more extreme weather. Having this improved capability means we are more prepared for and resilient to these effects.

Our target is to reach the advanced stage (Stage 3) of the Adaptation Capability Framework by 2030. Our capability will be assessed annually at workshops, and the results of these workshops are one of the Top 50 Indicators of Council performance. We will look to enhance our Capability by taking actions which integrate right thinking about resilience throughout the organisation, from business cases to Council reports.

Our adaptation aims fully align with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 (SNAP3).¹² This includes using nature-based solutions wherever possible and planning for the impacts of climate change on our operations to ensure we deliver services consistently. To support SNAP3, we are also developing a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan, which will identify areas of greatest vulnerability along our coast and propose solutions. We will also publish a Climate Change Risk Register which highlights the places, people, and services that will be most affected by climate change. All our adaptation planning will consider vulnerability alongside exposure to risk and the severity of the hazard.

East Lothian Council helped to develop the refreshed Adaptation Capability Framework, which was published in January 2025. More information, see the Adaptation Capability Framework on Adaptation Scotland's website.¹³



Communications Objectives: Council staff and residents are more aware of climate adaptation. They will better understand what climate adaptation is and how it is applicable to their work. Staff understand who has responsibilities for climate adaptation, and it is considered as a near- and medium-term financial priority rather than only a sustainability issue. Staff and residents understand how adaptation will affect them and the benefits.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2021/10/public-sector-leadership-global-climate-emergency/documents/public-sector-leadership-global-climate-emergency/public-sector-leadership-global-climate-emergency/govscot%3Adocument/public-sector-leadership-global-climate-emergency.pdf>

¹² <https://adaptation.scot/about/about-the-scottish-governments-national-adaptation-plan-snap3/>

¹³ <https://adaptation.scot/take-action/adaptation-capability-framework/>

Focus Area: **CARBON LITERACY**

Carbon Literacy is how well we understand climate change, its causes, and what action we can take to respond. By improving Carbon Literacy across the organisation, we can integrate the principles of emissions reductions at every level of service delivery and make improvements in everything we do. Carbon Literacy Training is delivered through courses certified by the Carbon Literacy Project. Delivering this training to staff is one of the Top 50 indicators for council performance, with a target of training 500 staff by 2027. The Council Management Team and senior elected members will also undertake Carbon Literacy training.

We will further improve our organisational understanding of and reporting on climate change throughout council processes by including climate impacts in policies, plans, and strategies that are adopted by the council. Any reports that have a significant impact on the environment will report what that impact is expected to be and how it will be mitigated, and officers will have updated guidance to support them doing so.



By enhancing our Carbon Literacy, we empower leaders, officers, and frontline workers to make transformational change across the organisation. This includes links to [Education & Training](#), where Learning for Sustainability leads will be certified Carbon Literate. This enables our current generation of learners to have a holistic understanding of sustainability. We want every decision to be a climate-positive decision, and every role to be a climate-positive role.



Communications Objectives: Staff believe in the importance of taking organisational responsibility for climate change. They know how to access knowledge about climate change and feel comfortable speaking about how their roles relate to sustainability. We communicate with residents about climate change in plain English. Residents feel we are being transparent. We will link extreme weather and other disruption to climate change wherever there is evidence.

Focus Area: **PROCUREMENT**

A significant amount of our emissions come from sources that we are responsible for but didn't produce ourselves, like purchased goods and our staff driving to work. These are called Scope 3 emissions. All public bodies, including councils, have a Sustainable Procurement Duty¹⁴ which requires us to consider the environment with our contracts and goods. ELC also has our own Sustainable Procurement Policy. Our Procurement Strategy,¹⁵ which was refreshed in 2023, aligns with all the above and contains actions to embed circular economy principles and climate change mitigation into our procurement activities.

We will be required to report on some categories of Scope 3 emissions in the next 5 years, including procured goods and services. We expect that support will come from the Scottish Government to assist calculating this, but it will be up to us to clearly report how this affects our journey to net zero. We will use this baseline to set targets for reducing our procurement emissions once we have the details. Including procurement emissions in our reporting means that our emissions will appear to go up significantly. However, similar to emissions from staff commuting, it is rather that a more robust methodology to calculate and report them will give us a clearer picture. Preparing for this change early will mean that Scope 3 targets and a path to net zero can be integrated smoothly into our plans.

Even before we have these details, we can undertake best practice to bring our emissions down using the principles of the Mitigation Hierarchy. By shifting to an approach which looks to minimise new goods and to reuse and repair rather than replace, we lower whole lifecycle emissions. We will include these ideas in our tenders and contracts. Procurement is also the first step in Waste reduction. By only buying what we need and how much we need, we can be more efficient with our use of resources and have less waste to handle. We will also grow the amount that we spend with local suppliers to reduce emissions from our contractors' travel and support our Community Wealth Building objectives (see: Economy).



Communications Objectives: *Staff feel confident answering the questions 'whether to buy, how much to buy, how to buy.' We link responsible and sustainable procurement to reducing waste and shortening supply chains. We are learning how to measure emissions from our procurement. Staff and communities understand what it means to measure Scope 3 emissions and staff feel confident planning to reduce these emissions.*

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/sustainable-procurement-duty/>

¹⁵ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/27544/procurement_strategy

Focus Area: **RESOURCES**

It is a challenging time for public finances. Inflationary pressures, including the costs of energy and materials, mean that the council is focussing on statutory services. There is virtually no financial headroom to deliver transformational decarbonisation projects on our own. However, we also understand that we must act sustainably and align the resources that we do have with progressing our climate change targets. We will show this alignment by including climate change in our business cases and by linking climate-positive outcomes with our infrastructure projects. We have already signed a letter to our pension provider, Lothian Pension Fund, to divest from fossil fuels and our position remains firm on that issue.

We must align our resources to the needs of a climate-ready and climate-affected world. Any investment that isn't resilient to climate change is an investment at risk. We will be a positive influence in the area and can improve the climate resilience of the whole area by, for instance, making key assets like the Cockenzie site adapted to known effects of climate change. We will demonstrate how our budget delivers on our net zero and climate adaptation goals by enhancing assessment of our budget and including climate change in our financial reporting.

Our aims to make our resources more climate-positive are supported by work in other areas. By bringing in funding from developer contributions and working with our partners, we are improving how we identify and bring in resources for climate action. This enables us to realise benefits for the climate, our natural environment, and our residents by making more change with the resources we already have available to us.



Communications Objectives: *Investing in sustainability is investing in our future. Resilience to climate change will become a routine part of our thinking. Staff understand how to apply their existing resources more sustainably and use available levers to be more sustainable without costing more. Decision-makers understand the links between financial and emissions savings.*



ASSETS

OUTCOME: *Our buildings and vehicles are lower emissions and adapted to climate change.*

This section focusses on our corporate, leased, and school buildings and on our staff's business travel. We use gas and grid electricity –which produces emissions when it is generated- to heat and power our buildings. Transport is also a contributor, as most of our fleet of uses internal combustion engines. These emissions are the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions that we report on annually, so we have the most control over these. Our buildings are dispersed throughout East Lothian, so they also share climate vulnerabilities to flooding and overheating as other buildings in the area. By making sustainability improvements to our assets, we can drastically reduce our emissions and improve the resilience of the whole area.

Focus Area: **BUILDINGS**

Energy used in the council's buildings is our single largest source of emissions. Natural gas accounted for $\frac{1}{3}$ of our emissions in 2023/24 and electricity is a significant source too, though this can fall as grid electricity decarbonises. Some of our estate will struggle with the intense heat and rainfall which climate change is expected to exacerbate. We must also make sure our buildings are resilient to longer intense windstorms, which may increasingly be northerly or easterly. These challenges mean that improvements to the climate-related performance our estate can make a significant difference to our organisation and area's emissions.

East Lothian Council has adopted a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, which sets out a routemap to decarbonising heat in East Lothian buildings, including our non-domestic estate. In every situation, our preferred solution will be the technology that is low-cost, low emissions, and supports community wealth and skills. For more details, see our LHEES.¹⁶ Some of our buildings will be particularly challenging to decarbonise, so we will develop plans for these buildings on a case-by-case basis which will include decarbonising electricity use on-site where possible

We have not lost sight of the fabric-first approach and mitigation hierarchy, so we will also reduce emissions from our buildings by improving the energy and water efficiency of our

¹⁶

<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/34704/local-heat-and-energy-efficiency-strategy-lhees>

buildings. Sensors which manage lights and heating are routinely installed when we re-wire our buildings to reduce energy use when unoccupied. We also regularly improve the layout of buildings in response to weather events and will use nature-based solutions such as SuDS to ease surface flooding.

We recognise that the need to have fewer and more efficient buildings may lead staff and residents to travel more to access work sites and services. This will be mitigated by improving digital connectivity and online services. Active Travel support at council work sites will be rolled out to improve safety and assets will be sited in places that are well-connected by public transport (see: [Commuting](#)). As part of the wider effort to improve the utilisation of our estate, the buildings we retain will be more accessible for community. We also recognise that transferring ownership of a building reduces our corporate emissions but not area-wide emissions. We will work to address this challenge with our community and public sector partners through the development of a county-wide Climate Change Strategy.



Communications Objectives: *We will look to reduce water use in buildings, emphasising that doing so saves energy and improves climate resilience. Relevant staff and decision-makers understand the climate risks to each of our buildings and how its users can respond. Staff and residents will travel more sustainably between our buildings, taking advantage of facilities to do so.*

Focus Area: **TRANSPORT & VEHICLES**

In our semi-rural county, transport is one of the most challenging parts of our operations to decarbonise. We deliver services across the county, which provide significant social benefits to residents. Some travel-intensive services like waste collection even help our environmental goals by improving recycling rates. We already have a fleet that is 100% compliant with Scotland's low emissions zones and a significant portion of it is electric. We will work to overcome remaining barriers to a zero-emissions fleet where possible and when appropriate funding is provided. Over the next 5 years, we will do the preparatory work needed to transition to a fleet of vehicles that produces zero tailpipe emissions.

We are working to integrate the Transport Hierarchy across the organisation, which encourages active travel & public transport over private car journeys, even in zero-emissions vehicles. We will enable staff to travel actively by having infrastructure at our buildings that supports cycling & walking between work sites. Staff will also be supported to work from home or with hybrid working arrangements. Digging deeper, we will share journeys with other staff and ensure that the vehicles we do have are well-used in their lifetime. These efficiencies will save fuel and cost, as well as emissions. Taking fewer journeys and making our approach to business travel more climate-positive will also make us more resilient to climate-induced extreme weather events. We can maximise resilience while minimising cost

emissions by using electricity produced at council sites, which will make us less reliant on volatile global supply chains.



Communications Objectives: We will see active and sustainable transport as the norm for business travel. Staff will go from 'I should travel sustainably for council business' to 'I will travel sustainably for council business.' Staff feel comfortable trying and familiarising themselves with zero emissions vehicles, and then feel confident using them. We will routinely ask the question: 'do I need to travel for business?' The case for a modal shift from private cars to active travel & shared transport is clear and supported by council culture.

Travel options; from most to least sustainable:

- Walking, wheeling & cycling
- Public transport
- Taxis & shared transport
- Private cars



Public bike racks, Haddington



SERVICES

OUTCOME: *We will design our services to be lower impact and resilient to climate-induced disruption.*

Our assets are responsible for most of our emissions, but this doesn't happen in a vacuum - we use them to deliver services. When we change the design and the delivery of our services to be low-impact and resilient to climate change, resource and energy use will follow. Our services are also where residents have the most interaction with us, whether in schools or through planning decisions. We can inform our residents about climate change and encourage them to participate in our climate action through our service delivery.



Focus Area: **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Education is the way we will create a climate-positive East Lothian for the future. Schools are one of our core services and school buildings account for most of our estate. East Lothian schools have done well in achieving Eco Schools's Green Flag award. The Scottish Government has set out its Target 2030, which calls for every 3-18 place of education to be a Sustainable Learning Setting by 2030. There is also a national Learning for Sustainability action plan which we will align to with our own strategic plans.

Because schools are a critical part of what we do, we will make our teaching more climate-forward while we improve efficiency and reduce emissions from the schools themselves (see: '[Buildings](#)'). We aim for our teachers to become [Carbon Literate](#) and for that expertise to be passed onto learners. Educating and preparing for climate change will also improve our preparedness. We will support education and training that considers the impacts of climate change from the outset and minimises risks from the energy transition for the region.

We will integrate Learning for Sustainability in our curriculum. Its objectives will be taken on board holistically, so that learners will get hands-on with climate action even outside of the classroom to learn how sustainability interacts with their home and school lives. These were the themes that emerged from consultation with children, which we have taken on board as priorities. We will also measure children and young peoples' confidence with the Learning for Sustainability objectives and their confidence in us to improve our sustainability.

Training and upskilling will also be critical to securing a climate-positive future. We can look to improve employment in the area by connecting residents with green skills and education, and we must do so in order to create a local workforce that enables us to make transformational changes to our assets and infrastructure. We need frontline workers to retrofit buildings and to service net zero emissions energy infrastructure. We will help residents get skills for the green jobs of the future as part of our Community Wealth Building objectives (see: [Economy](#)).



Communications Objectives: *Education staff feel confident interacting with young people about climate change and responding to climate-induced weather events. We recognise that today's young people will bear the brunt of climate impacts. We are responding by delivering educating them about climate change and giving them skills for a climate-affected world. We are also listening to the concerns and needs of young people and our learners. Training a local workforce will create a healthier, more local, and lower-impact economy.*

Focus Area: **WASTE**

We collect waste from our residents, but we cannot control what goes into the waste bins. Nonetheless, we can use our collection times and our messaging to encourage better recycling rates. We collect recycling every week and organise the materials so they have maximum recycling value. Our general waste collection limits capacity to 70 litres every 3 weeks, which encourages more recycling, and virtually all residual waste is diverted from landfill to an energy-from-waste plant which burns the waste and uses the heat to generate electricity. This does produce emissions and some air pollution, but crucially it makes use of the waste which would otherwise go to landfill. We follow the Scottish Household Waste Charter and waste hierarchy outlined below in our procurement & waste management:



We will continue to measure the amount of municipal waste that we recycle every year, as well as emissions from the waste we manage. By tracking these figures year-on-year, we will be able to measure improvements and identify which waste reduction measures are most effective. Our waste education officers engage directly with and support provide residents and businesses to reduce their waste, manage it correctly, and follow the waste hierarchy.

We do not measure our operational waste separately from municipal waste, but we can take proven steps to reduce our waste. Reducing waste begins with Procurement, where we have already included the waste hierarchy in our Sustainable Procurement Guidance. We guide employees to procure only what they need and buy goods that can be disposed of responsibly. We then trust our excellent waste management processes to minimise emissions at the end-of-life of goods.

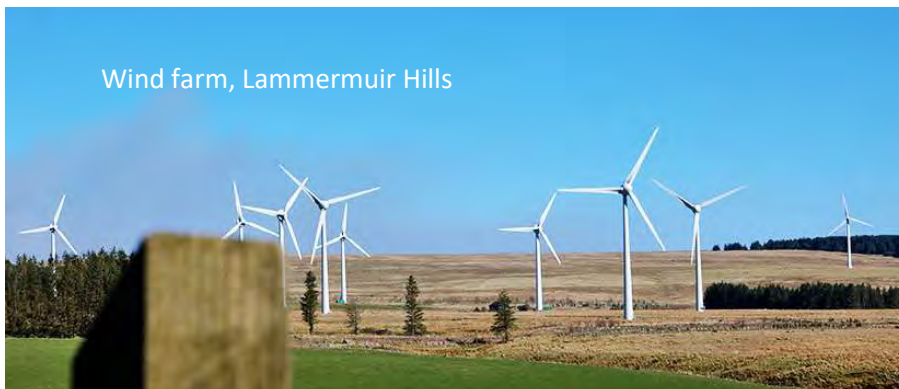


Communications Objectives: *We will communicate the benefits of reducing waste and link reducing waste with more responsible procurement and other performance outcomes. We will connect residents and employees with practical ways to follow the waste hierarchy and improve recycling rates. Residents will understand how to dispose of waste responsibly and how our waste practices align with this imperative.*

Focus Area: **PLANNING**

Local authorities can have a significant influence on the emissions produced in their area from buildings and transport,¹⁷ which we do through planning. It is important that our local planning policy and decisions are climate-conscious. It is currently a critical juncture in the planning policy landscape. The Scottish Government has recently produced a National Planning Framework 4, which outlines the principles which should guide planning policy and makes climate action a critical part of its approach. We are currently developing our second Local Development Plan (LDP2) which fully aligns with the National Planning Framework. Planning policy and decisions must balance competing demands for space for agriculture, housing, and green spaces.

We already know some of the climate-related policies we will adopt with LDP2, and through developing this Climate Change Strategy we have also decided to develop additional guidance to support developers and planners to make developments climate-ready and low-emissions. Building a climate-ready East Lothian will require planning for the effects of climate change. Our guidance will include ways for developments to be resilient to flooding and other climate impacts, or sited and designed to minimise their exposure to these hazards outright. On a landscape level, we will include provision of Green & Blue Networks to help mitigate climate change and improve climate resilience through nature-based solutions and food growing.



The guidance we develop will support renewable energy and set criteria for developers to align with our sustainability aims. This includes proposals to decarbonise energy with on-site generation that keeps the benefits in East Lothian. Our climate-forward approach to planning will also have a positive effect on our heritage. We will support re-using existing buildings to reduce embodied emissions and plan for accessible and well-connected living in towns.



Communications Objectives: *We are looking to conserve the character of our settlements and enhance natural spaces while preparing our area for a climate-affected future. There are co-benefits to be gained by planning responsibly and achieving climate-positive outcomes. Planning decisions will be informed by climate-positive thinking, which is made possible by our improved Carbon Literacy and clearer, locally relevant guidance.*

¹⁷ https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/LA-Report_final.pdf

Focus Area: **LIBRARIES, PARKS & SPORTS**

We have libraries and community centres, which must be decarbonised and made climate-ready along with the rest of our estate. We also manage parks, pitches, and sports clubs for the benefit of amenity of residents and visitors. Libraries are the original circular economy, and most of our libraries, museums, and parks are well-sited and accessible by public transport. Our parks already showcase our commitment to tackling the climate and nature



emergencies by expanding nature networks, natural play opportunities, and climate resilient planting (see: [Green & Blue Networks](#)). However, we can always make improvements. It was clear during public consultation that residents want using our customer-facing services to be climate-positive and we will aim to deliver that to the best of our ability.

It is critical that these spaces reflect our understanding of climate change and commitment to combatting it. We use nature-based solutions to improve the climate resilience of our outdoor spaces, including in parks and green spaces in more urban environments.

We will improve the sustainability of our customer-facing services, with particular emphasis on re-use. We will also make information and activities related to climate change available to residents at our public-facing locations. Any hand-outs will be lower-plastic and focussed on reusability, including sports kit. We will continue to encourage residents to reach facilities by active & sustainable travel (see: [Commuting](#)) and aim to deliver sports activities close to residents to minimise travel. Library services are also increasingly available online. By completing actions in this section, the spaces we offer our services will be sustainable centres of learning and amenity.



Communications Objectives: *Residents should feel that libraries are an accessible, climate-resilient space that enables them to access services and enjoy themselves with low or no environmental impact. Users, residents, and staff should access sports facilities, parks, and libraries using active or sustainable travel. We continue to look for and take opportunities to naturalise our parks, outdoor sports, and play facilities to make council land into climate-positive space.*

Focus Area: CARE

East Lothian Council delivers care through the Integrated Joint Board (IJB), which operates in cooperation with NHS Lothian. NHS Lothian manages most of the buildings and some of the services, while the council operate services, use vehicles, and use goods.

Our partners share our vision for sustainability. We all have a strong desire to work in concert rather than in silos and to deliver effective climate change action. The IJB and its partners will produce a region-leading Sustainability Plan which will address 3 shared priorities: Buildings; Waste; and Travel. Improving climate resilience in these areas is critical for all partners, as patients are likely to be among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It is therefore critical that patients are accessible in extreme weather events and are in spaces that are resilient to extreme weather.

Collaborative action to address these priorities will dovetail with the council's activities. By working with regional and national partners, improvements in procurement and waste can be shared widely so that the entire public sector in East Lothian can work more sustainably. Combining our efforts will accelerate emissions reductions in the areas most relevant to the delivery of care in the region.



Communications Objectives: *Care managers should always have a 'Plan B' to continue patient care in case of extreme weather. The council and NHS are aligned in our priorities, and we are confident we can effectively deliver services in a low-cost, low-impact way.*



East Lothian Community Hospital, Haddington

PLACE

OUTCOME: *Through partnership working, we enhance nature and our built environment. Communities benefit from the energy transition.*

We recognise the influence we have outwith the Council estate & operations. We look after the county's land and represent the people of East Lothian, so we must help both to be more climate-ready. The county's environment and communities will have a thriving relationship that improves resilience to climate change and reduces emissions. We will support the people and environment of our place to reduce emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.

Focus Area: **COMMUNITIES**

The wellbeing and resilience of our communities is our motivation to take climate action. We must mitigate the devastating effects of climate change and help our communities adapt to a climate-affected world. The Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 (see: [Adaptation Capability](#)) places community resilience as one of its central themes. The Council will support that objective by providing logistical support to community councils and volunteer groups to help residents prepare for climate-induced weather changes. We are also working closely with partners including the community-led East Lothian Climate Hub to co-create our plan for area-wide climate action (see: [Leadership](#)). These approaches mean that the Council and communities will support each other on the journey to climate readiness and net zero energy.

We will support climate action in physical and digital spaces that the council manages. The continued successful roll-out of vehicle chargers is ongoing, which is an example of the strong links between fostering sustainable communities and climate mitigation action in the [Commuting](#) Focus Area. We will build on success stories such as Sustainable Preston Seton Gosford to enhance our connection to sustainable community voices in other Area Partnerships. We will also make efforts to empower community climate action by connecting projects with land and funding. This will include initiatives such as community food growing and energy production, which will improve resilience to climate change and can enhance people's health and well-being.



Communications Objectives: We are working to express more clearly what support there is for community climate action. Communities should feel they are able to access clear, useful, and relevant information about how to be more resilient to climate change. They should also feel that their views on sustainability are valued and there are avenues to express those views.

*East Lothian benefits from having a community-led climate action hub, part of a network of 24 Scottish Government-funded hubs around Scotland. **East Lothian Climate Hub** works closely with us and supported consultation on this Strategy as part of their remit to empower communities to influence policy.*

They strengthen the voices of communities, linking with over 80 organisations and enabling climate change projects throughout the county. Some of their projects include community-led retrofit projects and working with farmers to enhance biodiversity.

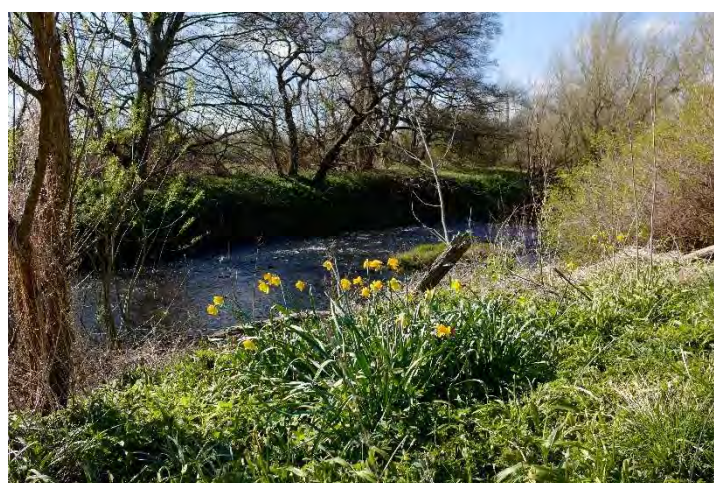
For more information visit eastlothianclimatehub.org

East Lothian Climate Hub

Focus Area: **GREEN & BLUE NETWORKS**

Green and blue networks are natural and created areas such as grasslands, woodlands, and water features. They are connected to form networks to maximise their ability to absorb greenhouse gas emissions, manage water, and enhance biodiversity. These outdoor spaces are valued by our communities and visitors. They provide health and wellbeing benefits such as informal play spaces for children. The council manages open space across the county from parks and green networks within settlements to coasts and beaches.

These areas need support to retain the qualities that make them so valuable. As well as absorbing greenhouse gases, green and blue networks provide flood management and shade during hot summers. We are already building nature networks which connect key habitats for plants and animals across the county. We will continue improve the quality and connectivity of our green and blue networks, with particular emphasis on areas which provide benefits to climate resilience. These improvements protecting and enhancing sand dunes to increase resilience, enhance water courses to manage flood risk, and planting trees in the right places to increase shade cover for heat wave events. We will also identify and enhance green spaces in built-up areas so there are fewer barriers between ourselves and the natural environment, expanding our nature networks and improving resilience to climate change.



We will favour nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for climate resilience wherever possible. This will be supported in policy by identifying Nature Networks in our Local Development Plan 2 (see: [Planning](#)) and linking these networks with our in-development Open Space Strategy. We will continue to plant trees and naturalise grasslands. We will develop a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan that will dovetail with the Climate Change Strategy to improve green and blue networks in East Lothian.

Communications Objectives: *Press statements and releases will clearly link the climate and nature emergencies. Staff should understand that delivering nature-based solutions has the dual benefit of addressing both emergencies. Staff will be encouraged to consider how they can deliver positive effects for biodiversity and climate change.*



Focus Area: **COMMUTING**

Staff and agency commuting is one of our 'stickiest' sources of emissions. It was our second-largest contributor in our baseline year 2023/24, accounting for 29% of our reported emissions, and Transport is the second largest source of emissions in the area after Industry.¹⁸ This is a nationwide challenge, as domestic transport is the largest source of emissions in Scotland.¹⁹ The Scottish Government have a target of reducing car kilometres 20% by 2030 compared to 2019, but Audit Scotland's latest report indicates this target is unlikely to be met.²⁰ We share this challenge as a semi-rural local authority with many staff who must work on-site for service delivery and well-being. Despite this, we must enable a shift to walking, cycling, and public transport for our staff and residents to achieve net zero by 2045. Accordingly, Commuting is the section of the Action Plan with the most actions.

Reducing reliance on employee commuting will also mean having a resilient workforce that is more flexible and better able to continue in instances of severe weather and flooding. We support many of our desk-based staff to work from home and will better understand how to manage the balance between home and office working when we complete our asset review. This will mean that staff are equally resilient to weather-induced disruption whether in the office or working from home.

We must also develop an approach to encourage less and more sustainable commuting outwith the county. Many residents work in larger cities and commute via private car journeys, so we will facilitate modal shift to active, shared, or sustainable travel options. We will continue our roll-out of Journey Hubs which connect different routes and modes of sustainable travel. The growth of our vehicle charging infrastructure has also been a success, and we will continue to provide excellent connection options for those who get around with an electric vehicle.



Communications Objectives: *We understand why our commuting emissions are higher than previously thought and what that means for the overall emissions of our organisation. Staff go from 'I should travel sustainably to work' to 'I do travel sustainably to work.' Residents are aware of the work we are doing that makes it easier to travel sustainably and take advantage of these schemes.*

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-statistics-2022/pages/section-b--results/>

²⁰ <https://audit.scot/news/minimal-progress-on-reducing-car-use#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20the%20Scottish%20Government,it%20is%20unlikely%20to%20meet>

Focus Area: **ECONOMY**

Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, we must use our powers to reduce emissions in the area. This may be through growing skills for a low-emissions economy, economic development policies, and using our own economic power. We adopted our East Lothian Local Economy Strategy 2024-34²¹ in April 2024, which has 'Green and Sustainable' as one of the key principles. Our objective is to facilitate and realise benefits from a net-zero economy, including renewably generated energy and regenerative agriculture, and support a climate-ready economy.

The East Lothian Partnership's Community Wealth Building Charter²² is the only such document in Scotland to include climate change as a sixth pillar alongside the other 5 community wealth building pillars. We will progress the actions in this pillar alongside our fellow anchor institutions, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh College, and Queen Margaret University. The Community Wealth Building Charter will seek to maximise the community benefits of climate action through our spending, energy projects that progress in East Lothian, and through restoring nature. We will also make progress on our Poverty Plan²³ to reduce inequalities in the county. Communities with high levels of wellbeing are more resilient to climate change and more empowered to take climate action, so achieving this aim will support the county to be more climate positive.

Visitors and businesses will continue to be encouraged to use sustainable travel, supported by Journey Hubs and an expansion of our active travel network (see: [Commuting](#)). We will also aim to have more climate-positive businesses in East Lothian -which has the co-benefit of less commuting- and we will tie our funding to climate-positive outcomes where we can. This links to our goals in [Education & Training](#) to upskill, reskill, and future-proof East Lothian's workforce so that residents can find secure, climate-positive jobs and we can procure from local firms to support our climate change actions. Learners are the workforce of the future, so our work to implement Learning for Sustainability in [Education](#) will also support a green local economy in the years to come.



Communications Objectives: Local businesses and prospective business owners are aware of the avenues of support we offer to improve sustainability. The sustainability advice we provide is relevant, attractive, and is accessed more often. Businesses are aware of how climate change will impact them and are motivated to take action. Staff will identify links between community wealth building and climate-positive outcomes, and residents can identify instances where our climate action has addressed poverty and built community wealth.

²¹ <https://investeastlothian.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SUMMARY-EAST-LOTHIAN-LOCAL-ECONOMY-STRATEGY-2024-34-FINAL-004.pdf>

²² https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/34532/east_lothian_community_wealth_building_charter_final.pdf

²³ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/34964/east_lothian_partnership_poverty_plan_2024-28.pdf

Focus Area: **HOMES**

East Lothian is one of the fastest-growing counties in terms of population and homes are being built to meet this demand, but it also has an irreplaceable and nationally important cultural and natural heritage. We must balance the demand for new housing reflected in the affordable housing emergency with the need to conserve existing communities and the value of surrounding green spaces. We must also decarbonise the heat and energy of existing homes, with our preferred approach for different property and town types detailed in our LHEES. Actions and goals in this section of the Strategy are split between new and existing homes, and also between Council-owned social housing (24% of housing stock) and private housing (76% of housing stock).



Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) in North Berwick

The driver for our activity on Housing is our Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029,²⁴ which guides us to create sustainable and well-connected neighbourhoods, as well as develop an approach to reach net zero on our own social housing stock. We also have had success improving the energy efficiency of private homes through delivering the Area-Based Scheme and we will continue these fabric-first improvements where funding allows. Compliance with ambitious Energy Efficiency Standards in Social Housing (EESH) is excellent, and we aim for this to continue when new Social Housing Net Zero (SHNZ) standards are introduced, though we anticipate this standard to be more stringent and therefore a challenge to reach across our estate.

We will also use our Planning powers to site new housing in climate-resilient or –adaptable locations and build neighbourhoods that are accessible by sustainable transport to reduce reliance on private car journeys. Through planning, we will encourage green infrastructure for new housing and ensure provision of suitable green space (see: Green & Blue Networks).



Communications Objectives: Staff and residents understand that using water and energy more efficiently has the dual benefit of lowering emissions and improving resilience. We are emphasising the importance of using existing homes to address the national housing emergency while keeping embodied carbon to a minimum. Staff and residents understand that electrification is a long-term decarbonisation solution, while gas is cheaper in the short term but cannot be decarbonized.

²⁴ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/33828/approved_local_housing_strategy_lhs_2024-2029

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-30

Monitoring & Reporting

Our Climate Change Strategy 2025–30 has over 200 actions, all with quantitative performance indicators. Updates on these actions will be collected from the respective action owners annually. A summary will then be presented in a master spreadsheet to elected members alongside the latest emissions data in the first quarter of each calendar year. Progress on each action will be colour-coded and compiled into a Gantt chart to enable an at-a-glance check of the Council’s climate actions.

The results of the annual action updates will be reported to an officer group called the Climate and Nature Emergency Group, to an Elected Member group called the Cross-Party Climate Change & Sustainability Forum, and to Cabinet. All will be publicly available in Members Library reports and linked to on the Council’s climate change web page.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Glossary

Active travel: Travelling by walking, cycling, wheeling or other modes without motorised transport.

Adaptation: Averting damage from the effects of climate change, such as heavier rainfall and rising sea levels. It is especially important in areas that are vulnerable due to the nature of a climate hazard or their ability to manage.

Area Partnership: East Lothian Council divides its Connected Communities into 6 geographic areas: Dunbar & East Linton, Fa'side, Haddington & Lammermuir, Musselburgh, North Berwick Coastal, and Preston Seton Gosford.

Baseline: The tCO₂e of emissions for one year, against which reductions are measured.

Biodiversity: The variety of species, habitats, and ecosystems. Improved biodiversity leads to stable ecosystems and a more suitable living condition for human beings.

Carbon budget: A limit on the emissions that can be produced over 5 years which keeps global warming at a sustainable level.

Circular economy: An alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which resources are kept in use by sharing and repairing, which means less extraction and use of brand-new materials.

Climate change: The long-term shift in global climate patterns, including extreme weather events and rising sea levels, linked directly with the warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

Climate emergency: Because climate change poses severe risks to the ways we live and work, East Lothian Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. Climate change is sometimes called 'the climate emergency' or 'the climate crisis.'

Climate-positive: Addresses climate change by either adapting to its effects or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate ready: Prepared for the effects of climate change, such as flooding and extreme heat, and for the way we live and work in a world affected by climate change.

CO₂: Carbon dioxide -often referred to as just 'carbon' - is the most well-known greenhouse gas that causes climate change. It is released into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels for transportation and energy.

CO₂e: Carbon dioxide equivalent. A way of measuring global warming potency which includes greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide, such as methane and nitrous oxide, which have varying warming effects. The warming effect of carbon dioxide is well-understood, so impact is often expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Co-benefits: Social, environmental, and economic benefits from climate action that are incidental to directly addressing climate change. For example, undertaking more active travel will result in improved cardiovascular health.

Coastal erosion: The change in our coastline caused by waves and storm events. It is expected to accelerate due to climate change. Also called 'coastal change.'

Decarbonise: Delivering a service or using an asset with fewer or no emissions. Carbon is used as a stand-in for all greenhouse gas emissions.

ELC: East Lothian Council.

Embodied emissions: The greenhouse gas emissions made from constructing a building, including manufacturing and transporting materials. All buildings created emissions when they were built, and their embodied emissions per year can be minimised by extending their lifespan.

(Greenhouse gas) Emissions: Gases in the atmosphere that trap the Sun's radiation within the Earth's atmosphere and cause global warming. This effect is similar to a greenhouse. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapour. Usually measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Emissions factor: The emissions produced per unit of energy used. Usually expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Energy-from-waste: Capturing the heat from incinerating waste and using it either to directly heat water for use in homes or businesses or to create steam that generates electricity.

Fabric-first: Upgrading the energy efficiency performance of a building so that energy demand is as low as possible ahead of switching to a low-emissions heat source.

Fossil fuels: Fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas which derive from decomposed organic material – hence 'fossil' fuel.

Global warming: An increase in the world's average temperature because of greenhouse gases trapping the Sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere.

Green & blue networks: Spaces for nature including hedgerows, parks, and water features like rivers. Includes nature networks.

Heat network: Hot water pipes, heated by a central source, which connect to homes, businesses, and public buildings.

LfS: Learning for Sustainability.

LHEES: Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

Lifecycle emissions: The emissions that were generated to create a building or product from the extraction and manufacture of materials through disposal and waste.

Low emissions zone (LEZ): A geographic area where travel is only allowed by active travel or with low-emissions vehicles.

Mitigation: Reducing, eliminating, or offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions generated by human activity, which will lessen the impacts of climate change.

Modal shift: Travelling less by private car and more by active travel and public transport.

Naturalise: Mowing and managing green spaces less so that biodiversity can flourish. Also called rewilding.

Nature emergency: The rapid and dramatic decline in the quality of nature and biodiversity globally due to human activity. Nature is critical to normalise the global climate, so what is occurring is a climate and nature emergency. The Council unanimously declared a nature emergency in October 2023.

Nature-based solutions: Climate adaptation and mitigation measures which leverage nature rather than hard engineering or technology. For example, planting trees for shade will also sequester emissions and support biodiversity.

Net zero: A balance between the emissions generated and removed from the atmosphere – this means the activity does not contribute to climate change.

Offsetting: Removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere to balance creating unavoidable emissions. Offsetting is not currently part of our approach.

Performance Indicator (PI): The change we record to determine the progress of an action.

Pre-industrial: Referring to global temperatures before human activity began to induce rapid climate change. Usually this means around the year 1850.

Regenerative agriculture: Farming techniques which replenish the quality of soil, improving its ability to cope with climate impacts and reducing emissions from agriculture.

Renewables / renewable energy: Energy which is generated using equipment that harnesses natural resources that are virtually limitless such as wind or solar energy.

Resilience: Preparing for and working around the impacts of climate change.

Retrofit: Upgrading the fabric of an already-constructed building for energy efficiency.

S&CCO: East Lothian Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer.

Scope 1 emissions: Emissions which we directly generate ourselves, such as burning fuel in vehicles or boilers.

Scope 2 emissions: Emissions created from generating the electricity which we purchase from the grid.

Scope 3 emissions: Emissions produced by other organisations because of our purchases or decisions. For example, staff commuting to work for us is our second-largest source of emissions.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Natural flood management techniques like wetlands and ponds which collect and drain surface water and enhance biodiversity.

Sustainability: For climate change, sustainability means we do things in a way that can last well into the future by maintaining a stable climate and without relying on finite resources like fossil fuels.

Tailpipe emissions: The greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels to drive internal combustion engine vehicles.

Transmission losses: Electrical energy which is lost on its way to the consumer due to resistance in the grid. This means electricity suppliers need to generate about 2% more electricity than is actually used by consumers, creating more emissions which the consumer is ultimately responsible for.

Upskilling: Learning skills that are useful for industries that adapt to climate change or support net zero energy.

Vehicle chargers: Public or staff plug-in stations to charge the batteries of electric vehicles.

Versions of our strategy can be provided in Braille,
large print, audiotape, or your own language.

For assistance please call: 01620 827 827

British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact
us via www.contactscotland-bsl.org

All information correct at time of publishing 29/04/2025

Contact us

Visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210657/climate_emergency

Email climatechange@eastlothian.gov.uk

Or call our Contact Centre on 01620 827 827

East Lothian Council

Climate Change & Sustainability

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East Lothian Council Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2030											
Reference	Action	Scope	PI	Owner	Supported By	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Theme: Governance											
Focus Area: Leadership											
G1.1	Produce a climate change plan for the county of East Lothian in collaboration with partners	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	East Lothian Climate Hub (External)						
G1.2	Participate in the Lothian Esk Catchment Partnership	Adaptation	Y/N per annum	Roads	Countryside						
G1.3	All Council strategies will consider contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation	Adaptation Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	Y/N	Council Resources							
G1.4	Create a Good Food Nation Plan	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Infrastructure	Facilities Management						
G1.5	Create a Local Food Growing Strategy working together with the East Lothian Friendly Food Network and other relevant stakeholders	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure							
G1.6	Engage in partnership working with other key organisations to share best practice for retrofitting existing buildings	Scope 3	Y/N per annum	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	LHEES						
G1.7	Include year-on-year changes of all major emissions sources	Scope 1	Y/N per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
G1.8	Set a target for water use across our estate	Scope 1	Y/N L of water / m2 floor / annum	Engineering Services							

G1.9	Set a target for heat needs across our estate	Scope 1	Y/N [Electricity Consumption (kWh)/m2/annum] + [Gas, LPG and Oil energy (kWh) (degree days adjusted)/m2 floor/annum] (excludes EV & Streetlighting consumption)	Engineering Services							
G1.10	Deliver the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy	Scope 3	# of interventions completed	LHEES							
G1.11	ELC's Climate and Nature Emergency Group has representation from all business units	Scope 3	% of business units represented	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
G1.12	Launch 'Make a Difference' campaign to support the Climate Change Strategy 2025 - 2030	Scope 3	# of campaign objectives completed	Communications							
Focus Area: Adaptation Capability											
G2.1	Develop and publish a Climate Change Risk Register by 2028, which covers operations and places across the county affected by climate change	Adaptation	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Emergency Planning						
G2.2	Institute a regular assessment of climate-related risks to operations linked to the Climate Change Risk Register	Adaptation	Y/N per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Emergency Planning						
G2.3	Develop an Adaptation Plan to respond to the risks in the Climate Change Risk Register	Adaptation	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Emergency Planning						
G2.4	Adopt and become certified ISO 14090:2019: Adaptation to Climate Change	Adaptation	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Emergency Planning						
G2.5	Improve our maturity level in the Adaptation Capability framework	Adaptation	X/4 score per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
G2.6	Adapt the Severe Weather Plan to include extreme heat, coastal erosion, and other climate risks	Adaptation	Y/N	Emergency Planning							

[illegible]

G4.1	When tendering for construction contracts, require an explanation of how the project is resilient to deluges, coastal erosion, and heat waves	Adaptation	Y/N	Roads							
G4.2	When tendering for construction contracts, require an explanation of how emissions are reduced through the whole life-cycle of the project	Scope 3	Y/N	Roads							
G4.3	Measure and record Scope 3 emissions from electricity transmission, waste generated, business travel, and commuting emissions when a methodology becomes available	Scope 3	Y/N	Procurement							
G4.4	Measure emissions from purchased goods & services, capital goods, leased assets, and investments with partners when a methodology becomes available	Scope 3	Y/N	Procurement	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer						
G4.5	Set a target for reducing indirect emissions once we have a baseline	Scope 3	Target CO2e and year	Procurement	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer						
G4.6	Move from 4-year to 5-year IT equipment refresh cycle	Scope 3	Y/N	ICT	Procurement						
G4.7	Consider the Circular Procurement Hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover) at an early stage as part of commodity strategy development	Scope 3	Y/N	Procurement							
G4.8	When tendering for construction contracts, require an explanation of how waste is reduced by following the waste hierarchy	Scope 3	Y/N	ICT							
G4.9	Increase spend with local suppliers in alignment with our Procurement Strategy	Scope 3	Y/N met local spend targets per annum	Procurement	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
Focus Area: Resources											
G5.1	Include costs of extreme weather and cost-benefit of climate action in Financial Strategy & Capital Strategy	Adaptation	Y/N per annum	Finance							

G5.2	Design phase of capital projects will include climate resilience as currently known and retain adaptation capability, i.e. 'Prepare for 2 degrees of warming, plan for 4'	Adaptation	Y/N	Infrastructure							
G5.3	Develop a methodology for a Climate Impact Assessment to be carried out for each business case which includes climate adaptation and mitigation	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
G5.4	New energy needs must consider alternative fuels and renewable energy to meet demand	Scope 1	# of business cases where alternative/renewable energy is adopted per annum	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management and Engineering Services	Finance						
G5.5	Amend business case template to capture how emissions will be minimised and climate resilience will be considered	Scope 1	Y/N	Transformation							
G5.6	Enhance business cases to estimate emissions savings of fuel, waste, water, or km travelled	Scope 1	Emissions change from business cases per annum	Transformation							
G5.7	Leverage and combine funding streams for climate action in housing, in line with Action 5.9 of the Local Housing Strategy	Scope 1	£ of funding	Housing							
G5.8	Infrastructure business cases set out how they can contribute to low-emissions and climate resilience aims	Scope 3	Y/N	Infrastructure							
G5.9	Measure and record income raised for climate action	Scope 3	£ raised	Finance							
G5.10	Track and report on climate-positive economic interventions	Scope 3	£ of intervention	Economic Development							
G5.11	Where appropriate, pipeline support for business will consider business progress/ambition toward being climate resilient and reducing emissions	Scope 3	% of £ invested associated with climate-positive endeavours	Economic Development							
Theme: Assets											
Focus Area: Buildings											
A1.1	Install proactive infrastructure resilience measures at buildings with high climate vulnerability	Adaptation	# of extreme weather resilience measures installed	Engineering Services							

A1.2	New schools include climate resilience in the design brief	Adaptation	Y/N	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	Engineering Services						
A1.3	Respond to shortfalls in extreme weather resilience	Adaptation	# of responses per annum	Engineering Services							
A1.4	Identify Council buildings at climate risk in climate change risk register	Adaptation	# of buildings covered by risk register	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.5	Identify whether climate adaptation is required for our buildings & include in authority's construction requirements	Adaptation	Y/N clause in construction requirements now standard	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	Infrastructure						
A1.6	Identify high water usage areas and respond	Scope 1	% of buildings using expected amounts of water	Engineering Services	Engineering Services						
A1.7	Analyse EPC ratings of our buildings once new Scottish Government requirements are published in 2026 and start a roadmap to 60% of our buildings being EPC rated C	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of estate with energy efficient EPC rating Y/N road map in place	Engineering Services Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.8	Build all new schools to Silver Standard for energy and water efficiency or better, according to Building Standards 7.1 Statement of Sustainability	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of schools built to higher building standard	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.9	Assess buildings' potential for on-site renewables and other innovative technologies	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of buildings with on-site renewables assessed	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.10	Have >1 Passivhaus building in ELC portfolio by 2030	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of Passivhaus buildings	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	Engineering Services						
A1.11	Develop a strategy to expand renewable energy use by the Council	Scope 1 Scope 2	Y/N	Energy Transformation Board							
A1.12	Replace fossil fuel heating systems with low- or zero-emissions heat sources	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of replacements per annum	Engineering Services	Housing						
A1.13	Create a register of recommended costed energy efficiency improvements for our estate when energy surveys are done	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of buildings on register	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	LHEES						

A1.14	Recommend and cost a net zero heat option for each building	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of buildings with recommended heat option	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.15	Implement asset review to reduce operational emissions from our estate	Scope 1 Scope 2	kg CO2e saved from planned building closures	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.16	Estimate a cost and timescale bringing the estate to net zero in operation, including an assessment of current & future heat demand	Scope 1 Scope 2	Y/N	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	LHEES						
A1.17	Start a roadmap to zero direct emissions in our estate	Scope 1 Scope 2	kg CO2e direct emissions from our buildings	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
A1.18	Estimate increase / decrease in operational emissions when a building opens / closes	Scope 1 Scope 2	kgCO2e saved/added from estate changes	Engineering Services							
A1.19	Increase the energy we consume from renewable energy sources	Scope 2	% of energy used from renewable energy sources	Engineering Services	Infrastructure						
A1.20	Increase electricity generated from renewable sources in our estate	Scope 2	kWh renewable electricity generated on our estate	Engineering Services	Infrastructure						
A1.21	Expand trial of using electric vehicles as batteries for buildings	Scope 2	# of buildings which have external batteries for buildings	Engineering Services							
A1.22	Expand battery storage in Council buildings	Scope 2	# of buildings which have battery storage	Engineering Services							
A1.23	At the initiation stage of projects, compare whole-life emissions cost to re-using an existing building	Scope 3	cumulative # of buildings brought back into use instead of constructing a new one	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management							
Focus Area: Transport & Vehicles											
A2.1	Offer shared bicycle options at Council workplaces	Scope 1	% of Council workplaces with shared bicycle options in the same town/village	Roads							

A2.2	Increase workplaces with Cycle Friendly Employer status	Scope 1	# of Council workplaces with current Cycle Friendly Employer status	Roads								
A2.3	Install fully supportive active travel infrastructure at Council buildings to support active travel, e.g. bike lockers, showers, etc.	Scope 1	# of Council work sites with appropriate end journey active travel infrastructure	Roads								
A2.4	Expand the number of workplaces with access to cycle storage for their staff	Scope 1	# of East Lothian Council workplaces with access to bike parking for their staff	Roads								
A2.5	Maintain the amount of Council vehicles that are Edinburgh LEZ compliant	Scope 1	% of fleet that is Edinburgh LEZ compliant	Transport								
A2.6	Increase utilisation of ultra-low emissions shared and pool vehicles	Scope 1	miles travelled using ultra low emissions shared vehicles	Roads								
A2.7	Increase utilisation of shared and pool bicycles	Scope 1	miles travelled using shared bicycles	Roads								
A2.8	Estimate and report the average annual emissions of fleet vehicles	Scope 1 Scope 2	kg CO2e from fleet vehicles per annum	Transport								
A2.9	Develop a framework where if a zero emissions vehicle is cost-neutral over its life, it is procured	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of zero emissions vehicles purchased annually	Transport								
A2.10	Transition to a zero emissions fleet of Council vans	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of van fleet that is zero emissions	Transport								
A2.11	Trial electric vans and tippers from Transport Scotland	Scope 1 Scope 2	Y/N	Transport								
A2.12	Trial electric vans for Property Maintenance	Scope 1 Scope 2	Y/N	Transport								
A2.13	Increase number of fleet vehicle charging devices at Council sites	Scope 2	# of fleet vehicle charging devices	Roads								

A2.14	All street lighting is energy efficient by 2030	Scope 2	% of street lighting energy efficient	Roads							
A2.15	Use sustainable materials to resurface roads	Scope 3	m2 of road resurfaced with sustainable materials	Roads							
A2.16	Provide personalised sustainable travel plans for staff that encourage a shift to more sustainable commuting choices	Scope 3	# of plans per annum (Target: 500)	Roads							
A2.17	Introduce infrastructure to support more electric buses in East Lothian	Scope 3	# of low emissions buses operating in East Lothian	Roads							
Theme: Services											
Focus Area: Education & Training											
S1.1	Create and distribute an 'extreme heat toolkit' for staff to have the skills and equipment needed to respond	Adaptation	Y/N	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.2	Improve learners' confidence in their schools' sustainability and resilience to climate change	Adaptation Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	% of learners that agree / strongly agree	Education							
S1.3	Schools will undertake Learning for Sustainability in and about the local environment, including food production	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Education							
S1.4	Early Education & Child Care providers will prioritise climate positive behaviours in their Setting Improvement Plan	Scope 1	% of providers with explicit climate-positive behaviours in their SIP	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.5	Early Education & Child Care will use shared staff travel planning sheets to maximise sustainable travel and minimise fuel usage	Scope 1	business miles travelled by EL&C per annum	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.6	Stipulate that Early Education & Child Care funded providers explain when onboarding how they deliver in a low-impact way	Scope 3	% of providers providing a low-impact sustainability statement	Early Years & Childcare							

S1.7	Stipulate that Early Education & Child Care funded providers explain when renewing how they deliver in a low-impact way	Scope 3	% of providers providing a low-impact sustainability statement	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.8	Create a benchmark that sets minimum expectations for Early Education & Child Care based on Eco Schools & Carbon Literacy training	Scope 3	Y/N	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.9	Set a target for plastic reduction in Early Education & Child Care	Scope 3	Y/N	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.10	Incorporate sustainability in guidance & policy in Early Education & Child Care	Scope 3	Y/N	Early Years & Childcare							
S1.11	Increase active travel rate to schools	Scope 3	% of children getting to school with active travel	Roads							
S1.12	Increase number of primary schools with a up-to-date travel plan to 90%	Scope 3	% of primary schools with an up-to-date travel plan	Roads							
S1.13	Continue to develop certificated training for both school and post school cohorts in line with labour market intelligence, e.g. Future Skills	Scope 3	# of students attaining a Future Skills qualification	East Lothian Works							
S1.14	Provide climate-positive apprenticeships for school leavers	Scope 3	# of apprenticeships identified	East Lothian Works	Mid- and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce (External)						
S1.15	Provide Employer Recruitment Incentives (ERIs) and Paid Work Experience opportunities for climate positive apprenticeships and jobs	Scope 3	# no of ERIs and PWE opportunities funded	East Lothian Works							
S1.16	Deliver core skills (Communications, Numeracy and ICT) upskilling to SCQF Level 5, in collaboration with Edinburgh College, to provide a platform for individuals to access further qualifications and training (including climate positive careers)	Scope 3	# engaging in programmes # attaining qualifications	East Lothian Works							
S1.17	Invest in circular economy training, skills, and technology	Scope 3	£ invested in circular economy skills	Economic Development							

S1.18	Provide annual funding for the Energy Training Academy to provide green skills locally, subject to funding	Scope 3	Y/N funding provided per annum	East Lothian Works							
S1.19	Include Learning for Sustainability in school plans and learning plans	Scope 3	% of schools with LfS in school plans and learning plans	Education							
S1.20	Improve learners' confidence contributing to Learning for Sustainability objectives	Scope 3	% of learners that agree / strongly agree	Education							
S1.21	Our Learning for Sustainability plan includes learners engaging with community climate action groups	Scope 3	Y/N	Education							
S1.22	Expand outdoor learning	Scope 3	% of schools with Outdoor Learning	Education							
S1.23	Reduce food waste in schools	Scope 3	kg food waste per annum	Facilities Management							
Focus Area: Waste											
S2.1	Recycle waste water to wash vehicles	Scope 1	Y/N per annum	Waste							
S2.2	Reduce total household waste	Scope 3	tonnage of waste collected	Waste							
S2.3	Reduce the tonnage of household waste disposed through energy-from-waste	Scope 3	tonnage of waste tCO2e from waste	Waste							
S2.4	Improve kerbside recycling	Scope 3	tonnage of recycled material sold	Waste							
S2.5	Reduce emissions from waste	Scope 3	tCO2e from waste per annum	Waste							
Focus Area: Planning											
S3.1	Review supplementary planning guidance on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other water management technologies	Adaptation	Y/N	Planning							
S3.2	Create guidance for planners to assess how developments have delivered alignment with our approach to avoiding climate risk and demonstrate resilience to 2100	Adaptation	Y/N	Planning							

S3.3	LDP2 will develop policy that considers proposals to directly mitigate climate risks including water scarcity, flooding, migration of species, and coastal erosion will be supported in principle	Adaptation	# of adaptation proposals approved per annum	Planning							
S3.4	Use Section 75 funding to progress climate-positive & green infrastructure projects and community facilities	Adaptation Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	£ spent on sustainable transport, energy efficient buildings, nature-based projects (play/pitches), and climate resilience / adaptation	Planning							
S3.5	Potentially use other sources of funding gained from development towards mitigating climate change and enhancing biodiversity through green and blue infrastructure projects.	Adaptation Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	£ raised per annum	Planning							
S3.6	Create guidance for planners to assess how developments can demonstrate they have delivered alignment with our climate change mitigation targets approach including: - energy efficiency - renewable energy - sustainable materials - hedges & biodiverse landscaping - suitable green & garden space	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							
S3.7	Develop clear planning guidance that supports renewable energy in suitable locations including acceptable energy projects in conservation areas and national energy developments	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							
S3.8	Adopt local policy standards that favour re-use of existing buildings and materials	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							
S3.9	LDP2 will encourage the use of brownfield land over greenfield	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							

S3.10	LDP2 will support the maximisation of on-site renewable energy potential of new developments and redevelopment proposals	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							
S3.11	Set a target for % of energy needs that new developments must meet with on-site renewable energy	Scope 3	Y/N % energy needs target	Planning	LHEES and Engineering Services						
S3.12	Track and report how many new builds and building warrants comply with Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels of energy & water efficiency	Scope 3	# of buildings to each standard	Planning							
S3.13	Increase number of allotments across the county's main towns	Scope 3	# of new allotment plots delivered through LDP2	Planning	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure						
Focus Area: Libraries, Parks, and Sports											
S4.1	Deliver the climate adaptation outcomes of the Open Space Strategy, including enhancing & improving open spaces for green network capacity & connectivity and climate change/resilience/flood management	Adaptation	# of actions completed	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure							
S4.2	Promote and enhance existing sustainability measures in sport	Scope 3	Y/N	Active Business Unit							
S4.3	Deliver the climate mitigation outcomes of the Open Space Strategy through the provision & management of open spaces, including enhancing green networks, quality green spaces, and active travel connectivity	Scope 3	# of actions completed	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure							
S4.4	Ensure that every library displays our adult and our young people sustainability collection of reading every 2 years	Scope 3	% of libraries which hosted both collections in prior 2 years	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.5	Clearly label sustainability reading in our libraries	Scope 3	Y/N	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.6	Updated stock buying policy for Libraries will include a commitment to purchase titles on sustainability where they meet our purchasing criteria	Scope 3	% of library stock with a sustainability focus	Libraries & Customer Services							

S4.7	Introduce Lend and Mend Groups in Libraries	Scope 3	% of libraries with sustainable activity groups	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.8	Explore hosting tool libraries in our libraries	Scope 3	# of libraries that host tool libraries	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.9	Begin providing reusable sanitary products & nappies in public buildings and display information about them	Scope 3	Y/N	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.10	Explore reducing or removing the sale of single-use plastics in Museums	Scope 3	Y/N	Libraries & Customer Services							
S4.11	Maintain ELC Kit Stop	Scope 3	Completed promotion, collections and distribution both terms (Y/N per annum)	Active Business Unit							
S4.12	Work with partners to implement practical and cost-effective solutions for reducing and eliminating microplastic granule loss into the environment from all our artificial sports pitches	Scope 3	Practices identified Y/N # of pitches with crumb retention practices in place	Active Business Unit							
S4.13	Clubsafe members to recycle at their managed facilities	Scope 3	% of sports facilities that offer recycling	Active Business Unit							
S4.14	Work with partners to promote sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of local sporting activities in our communities	Scope 3	# of groups that utilised public transport to events	Active Business Unit							
S4.15	Hold Active Schools activities at primary schools	Scope 3	Achieved 2 Weekly Activities at each Primary School both terms (Y/N per annum)	Active Business Unit							
S4.16	Hold Active Schools activities at secondary schools	Scope 3	% of Weekly Activities at each Secondary School (Target: 95%)	Active Business Unit							
S4.17	Offer 1 weekly local activities for older people in each town village	Scope 3	Y/N avg. 1 per week each quarter	Active Business Unit							

S4.18	Include environmental club policy in ClubSafe	Scope 3	# of Clubs achieved ClubSafe Accreditation +	Active Business Unit							
S4.19	Have a pump track in each Principle town	Scope 3	# of Pump Tracks in East Lothian (Target: 7)	Active Business Unit							
Focus Area: Care											
S5.1	Produce a sustainability plan for the East Lothian Integrated Joint Board	Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	Y/N	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
S5.2	Sustainability plan will include actions and a monitoring regime for 3 shared priorities: 1. Buildings 2. Waste 3. Travel	Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	Y/N per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer							
Theme: Place											
Focus Area: Communities											
P1.1	Support community councils to improve their preparation for climate change	Adaptation	% of community emergency plans that account for and respond to 2 out of 4: 1) extreme heat 2) deluge & flooding 3) coastal erosion 4) isolation	Emergency Planning							
P1.2	Explore climate assemblies or sustainability groups in all Area Partnerships	Adaptation Scope 3	# of Area Partnerships with climate assemblies or groups	Connected Communities							
P1.3	Explore including climate action in Area Plans	Adaptation Scope 3	# of Area Partnerships with climate action in the Area Plan	Connected Communities							
P1.4	Support community climate action with Community Intervention Fund	Adaptation Scope 3	£ given to climate-positive endeavours through CIF	Communities & Partnerships							

P1.5	Update the One Council Fund to include sustainability and support climate-positive outcomes	Adaptation Scope 3	£ given to climate-positive endeavours through One Council Fund	Communities & Partnerships							
P1.6	Retrospectively recognise land that is used for community climate action	Adaptation Scope 3	# of sites identified for community climate action	Planning	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure						
P1.7	Adopt local plan policy standards that prefer and encourage the principle of community-owned renewable energy developments in suitable locations	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning							
P1.8	Increase the community path network	Scope 3	new km of local paths per annum	Outdoor Access							
Focus Area: Green & Blue Networks											
P2.1	Enhance water courses using SUDS or other sustainable water management techniques in developments	Adaptation	# of water courses enhanced per annum	Planning	Roads						
P2.2	LDP2 will identify blue networks which systematically improve resilience to flooding and deluges	Adaptation	km blue networks identified	Planning							
P2.3	Increase the amount of designated wetlands in East Lothian	Adaptation	area of additional wetland identified in LDP2	Planning							
P2.4	Enhance parks and green spaces for nature and community food growing	Adaptation Scope 3	# of newly enhanced urban green spaces per annum	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure	Biodiversity						
P2.5	Produce an updated Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Biodiversity							
P2.6	Continue a tree planting & maintenance programme on Council land	Adaptation Scope 3	# of trees planted per annum	Amenity Services							
P2.7	Support community tree planting where appropriate in the county	Adaptation Scope 3	# of community tree plantings supported per annum	Countryside Amenity Services							
P2.8	Continue to manage Amenity grasslands, Countryside wildflower meadows, and conservation grazing for carbon sequestration	Adaptation Scope 3	m2 of climate positive land managed	Countryside Amenity Services							

P2.9	Countryside Rangers will incorporate and recognise climate change in their management plans, targeting 3 management plans per year per management plan schedule	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N target met per annum	Countryside							
P2.10	LDP2 will support creating more green spaces and woodlands	Adaptation Scope 3	Hectares green spaces / woodland supported	Planning	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure						
P2.11	LDP2 will identify nature networks	Adaptation Scope 3	# of nature networks delivered	Planning	Biodiversity						
P2.12	LDP2 will identify land for community food production	Adaptation Scope 3	Hectares land designated for community food production	Planning	Sport, Countryside, and Leisure						
P2.13	LDP2 will investigate making land available for nature-based solutions linked to nature networks and as part of development sites	Adaptation Scope 3	Hectares land designated for nature-based solutions	Planning							
P2.14	Implement the Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian	Adaptation Scope 3	# of areas of tree planting per annum	Planning							
P2.15	Complete a Hedgerow Strategy	Scope 3	Y/N Strategy completed	Planning							
P2.16	Aim to use peat-free compost & soil	Scope 3	Peat free Y/N per annum	Amenity Services							
Focus Area: Commuting											
P3.1	Enhance facilities at Journey Hubs across the county	Scope 3	# of Journey Hubs enhanced	Roads							
P3.2	Widen footways to 2 metres or greater to make them suitable for active travel	Scope 3	metres of footway widened to 2m or more per annum	Roads							
P3.3	Expand the number of community locations with bike parking	Scope 3	# of community locations with bike parking	Roads							
P3.4	Expand the number of residential sites with shared bike parking	Scope 3	# of residential sites with shared bike parking	Roads							
P3.5	Reduce staff commuting to work via car	Scope 3	% of staff commuting to work via car	Roads							

P3.6	Expand real-time information to bus stops	Scope 3	% of bus stops in East Lothian with access to real-time information	Roads							
P3.7	Engage with operators to inform passengers about the emissions of bus journeys compared to car journeys	Scope 3	Information available Y/N	Transport							
P3.8	Improve bus stops' accessibility	Scope 3	# of bus stops that have been improved for accessibility per annum	Roads							
P3.9	Increase the number of electric buses operating	Scope 3	TBC once buses begin operation	Transport							
P3.10	Increase number of rural connectivity projects	Scope 3	# of rural transport connectivity projects	Transport	Outdoor Access						
P3.11	Introduce a discount for staff on public transport	Scope 3	# of discounted journeys taken per annum	Transport							
P3.12	Introduce a salary sacrifice scheme for employees to travel on public transport	Scope 3	Y/N	Roads							
P3.13	Complete a refreshed Active Travel Infrastructure Strategy	Scope 3	Y/N	Roads	Outdoor Access						
P3.14	Implement the Active Freeway	Scope 3	metres of Active Freeway completed	Roads							
P3.15	Increase number of public vehicle charging devices around the county	Scope 3	# of vehicle charging devices / 100,000 residents	Roads							
P3.16	Increase number of vehicle charging devices at Council workplaces (staff and visitors)	Scope 3	# of vehicle charging devices at Council workplaces	Roads							
P3.17	Increase number of vehicles in vehicle share schemes	Scope 3	# of vehicles in vehicle share schemes	Roads							

P3.18	Implement 8 school streets by 2030, where learners have a car-free zone to walk to school once parking enforcement is in place	Scope 3	# of school streets	Roads								
P3.19	Increase coverage of controlled parking zones that are equitable and fair	Scope 3	sq. metres of new controlled parking zones per annum	Roads								
P3.20	Declutter obstructive street furniture on footways	Scope 3	# of decluttering interventions per annum	Roads								
P3.21	LDP2 will commit developers to connect new homes with local amenities via paths within 10 minutes walking or wheeling distance	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning	Outdoor Access							
P3.22	Reduce parking requirements for areas that are well-connected by public transport	Scope 3	Y/N	Roads	Planning							
P3.23	Explore a workplace parking levy for individual car journeys that is equitable and fair	Scope 3	Y/N	Council Resources	Roads							
P3.24	Place-making Strategy accounts for additional travel by including public transport and active travel measures	Scope 3	Y/N	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management								
P3.25	Reduce the number of journeys taken by private car	Scope 3	% of journeys taken by private car	Infrastructure								
P3.26	Increase journeys taken by active travel	Scope 3	% of journeys taken by walking & cycling	Infrastructure								
P3.27	Increase bus patronage	Scope 3	% of journeys taken by bus	Infrastructure								
P3.28	Grow the area which is rated 3 or better for accessibility to public transport	Scope 3	km2 of area rated 3 or better	Infrastructure								
P3.29	Measure emissions from homeworking alongside commuting	Scope 3	tCO2e per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer								
Focus Area: Economy												
P4.1	Stimulate investment in climate adaptation	Adaptation	£ secured in climate adaptation investment	Economic Development								
P4.2	Communicate potential savings from climate adaptation to businesses	Adaptation	Updated on website Y/N	Economic Development								

P4.3	Local Economy Delivery Plan identifies areas where the Council can have greatest influence making activity climate-ready	Adaptation	Y/N	Economic Development							
P4.4	Local Economy Delivery Plan communicates clear support for climate resilient and low-emissions endeavours	Adaptation	Y/N	Economic Development							
P4.5	Progress the Adaptation indicators of the Community Wealth Building Action Plan	Adaptation	RAG status per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
P4.6	Use Poverty data to identify adaptation projects for climate-vulnerable communities	Adaptation	# of projects identified	Tackling Poverty							
P4.7	Convene a Climate Change Working Group to progress actions in the Poverty Plan	Adaptation Scope 3	Y/N	Tackling Poverty							
P4.8	Encourage surplus land & property assets to be considered for sustainability projects	Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	# of land & property assets sold/leased for sustainable projects	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
P4.9	Progress the Mitigation indicators of the Community Wealth Building Action Plan	Scope 1 Scope 2 Scope 3	RAG status per annum	Sustainability & Climate Change Officer	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
P4.10	Support manufacturing industries that innovate low-emissions and reusable products	Scope 3	# of new businesses we support that are creating low-emissions, circular economy products	Economic Development							
P4.11	Increase sustainability benefits from East Lothian Council's community benefits	Scope 3	# of sustainability community benefits delivered per annum	Procurement	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
P4.12	Increase employment of East Lothian residents within the county	Scope 3	RAG status per annum	East Lothian Works	Reported by Community Wealth Building						
P4.13	Develop plural ownership entities	Scope 3	RAG status per annum	Economic Development	Reported by Community Wealth Building						

P4.14	Reduce food waste by connecting food producers and manufacturers with the local network of foodbanks and food pantries	Scope 3	# of connections identified	Tackling Poverty								
Focus Area: Homes												
P5.1	LDP2 will take areas of climate risk out of the spatial strategy consideration and guide new housing to areas of low climate risk	Adaptation	Y/N	Planning								
P5.2	Increase number of private and Council homes with air source heat pumps	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of homes with ASHP installations per annum	LHEES	Housing							
P5.3	Reduce number of private and Council homes below EPC C rated	Scope 1 Scope 2	# of homes below EPC rated C	LHEES	Housing							
P5.4	Meet EESSH standards for energy in Council-managed social housing	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of housing that meets EESSH standards	Housing								
P5.5	Meet Social Housing Net Zero Standard in Council-managed social housing	Scope 1 Scope 2	% of housing that meets SHNZ standards	Housing								
P5.6	Maximise use of on-site renewable energy generation for Council housing	Scope 1 Scope 2	kWh capacity new renewable energy installed per annum	Housing								
P5.7	Promote sustainable activities for tenants in social housing via the tenants' newsletter	Scope 1 Scope 2	Y/N	Housing								
P5.8	Increase the number of private and Council homes with solar PV	Scope 2	# of homes with solar PV installations per annum	LHEES								
P5.9	Set lower minimum parking requirement for new housing in LDP2	Scope 3	Y/N	Planning	Roads							
P5.10	Implement funded energy efficiency improvements for private homes, including ABS, Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund, and ECO4	Scope 3	# of homes upgraded under funded schemes per annum	Housing								
P5.11	Support on-site renewable energy generation for private housing	Scope 3	# of homes with installed renewables per annum	Housing								

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