

Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy: Implementation Plan 2020-2023

Version: May 2021

The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sets out how we will respond to the UK climate emergency and promote clean and resilient economic recovery that eliminates poor air quality, reduces fuel poverty and promotes the development of an affordable, clean and secure energy supply across Kent and Medway. The strategy was adopted by Kent Leaders in October 2020 and can be viewed online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-and-medway-energy-and-low-emissions-strategy>

The Strategy identifies ten high-level priorities for collaborative action in the short- and medium-term:

Priority 1: Emission Reduction Pathways To 2050

Priority 2: Public Sector Decision Making

Priority 3: Planning and Development

Priority 4: Climate Emergency Investment Fund

Priority 5: Building Retrofit Programme

Priority 6: Transport, Travel and Digital Connectivity

Priority 7: Renewable Energy Generation

Priority 8: Green Infrastructure

Priority 9: Supporting Low Carbon Business

Priority 10: Communications







This document sets out the detailed actions that will be taken between October 2020 and December 2023 to support these priorities. Monitoring and evaluation of progress will be carried out annually, with any new actions being added to the implementation as appropriate.



PRIORITY 1: EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS TO 2050

Set five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050 for Kent and Medway, with significant reduction by 2030.

RATIONALE

Carbon budgets will set quotas for the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted in five-year periods. These can then be used to identify the actions (or pathways), that will allow us to stay within our carbon budgets. Such evidence-based pathways will ensure we prioritise the most cost-effective activities and will support more collaborative working with partners across the county, region and nationally. It will also highlight where appropriate engagement is needed to influence aspects outside local authorities' control.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
1.1 Agree evidence/baseline and set 5-yearly carbon budgets for Kent and Medway as a whole	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Climate Change Network • Anthesis 	Carbon budgets for 2018-22 and future 5-yearly budgets through to 2050	Everyone in Kent and Medway can see the scale of action required to achieve net-zero emission by 2050. Decision makers understand where action and resources should be targeted and make evidence-based decisions.	Dec 2020	 
1.2 Develop Kent and Medway emission reduction pathway to Net Zero by 2050	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Climate Change Network • Anthesis 	Emission reduction pathway analysis report		Dec 2020	 
1.3 Develop local strategies that set out how Net Zero will be achieved in their area, using carbon budgets and emission reduction pathway report to inform the evidence base where appropriate	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • KALC • Town / Parish Councils 	Local authority strategies to achieve Net Zero for their area		Dec 2021	
1.4 Continue to develop and refine detailed emission reduction pathways for key sectors based on emerging policy and good practice, incorporating estimated costs where possible	Various (sector specific)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • Kent Estates Partnership • Kent Resource Partnership • KCC (Highways) • Sector experts 	Sectoral emission reduction pathways Environmental data for Kent		Ongoing	
1.5 Monitor and publicly report progress against net-zero targets	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • Kent Climate Change Network 	Council progress papers / reports ELES annual monitoring report		Progress is monitored and publicly reported.	Annual from Dec 2021






Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
1.6 Consider how emissions from consumption could be calculated and incorporated into future area pathways / targets	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Climate Change Network 	Discussion paper and decision on next steps taken by KMEG.	Actions to address consumption-based emissions incorporated into next iteration of action plan.	2023	 



PRIORITY 2: PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION MAKING

Develop a consistent approach across Kent and Medway, to assess, manage and mitigate environmental impacts (both positive and negative), resulting from public sector policies, strategies, service delivery, commissioning and procurement.

RATIONALE

The decisions made by Kent and Medway's public sector affect the environment and everyone living and working in the area. Developing a simple way to assess, manage and mitigate these impacts will ensure public sector policies, services and spending support our environmental targets. In addition, the public sector's influence and spending power will help drive demand and support innovation during economic recovery and beyond.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
2.1 Develop a simple checklist to identify where significant environmental issues and opportunities may arise in response to Covid-19 recovery.	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (EPE) • Kent Downs AONB Unit • Kent Nature Partnership • Kent Climate Change Network 	Principles for Green Recovery Support for ELES and Net Zero included in local recovery plans and strategies	Covid-19 recovery spending and decisions support Net Zero / sustainable ambitions.	Complete	
2.2 Develop recommended requirements to be included within public sector contracts to align to net-zero ambition and support use of local goods and services where possible.	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent Procurement Officer's Group 	Recommended requirements for public sector procurement / contracts Shared examples and good practice	Greater consistency of environmental standards across Kent's public sector contracts. Greater use of local goods and services.	June 2021	
2.3 Review contracts and commissioning processes to implement recommended requirements (see 2.2), tailored to organisation / local needs as necessary	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue • NHS • Other public sector bodies • Kent Climate Change Network 	Contracts revised to include stronger climate change commitments where possible	The negative environmental impact of public sector spending and decisions are reduced.	Ongoing	
2.4 Develop, test and rollout a comprehensive climate change impact assessment and social value framework for public sector decision making, with associated policies, guidance, training and support	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Estates Partnership • Kent and Medway Environment Group • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent Nature Partnership 	Climate change impact assessment tool and social value framework Policies, guidance and training materials	Public sector decisions and spending are consistent with our net-zero and low carbon recovery targets	2021 (develop and test) 2022 – 23 (roll-out)	 







Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
2.5 Encourage and support SMEs within public sector supply chains to effect positive environmental change by utilising LoCASE and STEM support programmes (see 9.2 and 9.3)	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • Kent Chamber of Commerce 	More public sector supply chain SMEs utilising LoCASE and STEM support programmes	<p>Public sector spending supports and drives expansion of the clean growth sector.</p> <p>SMEs reduce costs, lower emissions and win new public sector business</p>	2021-23	 





PRIORITY 3: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and incorporate climate resilience.

RATIONALE

Almost 180,000 new homes will have been built in Kent and Medway by 2031 and will still be in use after 2050. To ensure the buildings and infrastructure we construct today are fit for the zero-carbon future, we need to ensure planning policies and decisions embrace clean growth, support good quality sustainable design and promote low carbon travel, transport and digital connectivity. A joint evidence base and planning resource, together with shared position statements, guidance and policies will help inform planning decisions and future-proof new developments.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
3.1 Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth, net-zero targets and climate change adaptation	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (EPE and ED) • Kent Planning Authorities • Developers 	Public consultation Refreshed Kent Design Guide Launch event	Planners and developers can access the latest sustainable design guidance	Autumn 2021	 
3.2 Adopt and/or reference the refreshed Kent Design Guide as Supplementary Planning Documents, in line with Local Plan updates	Kent Planning Officers Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Planning Authorities 	Refreshed Kent Design Guide included in Supplementary Planning Documents	Local Plans promote and encourage sustainable design	Ongoing from Autumn 2021	
3.3 Secure agreement and identify scope and resource requirements to develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth evidence-base and strategic planning policy and guidance framework	Kent Planning Officers Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Planning Authorities 	Scoping workshop Scoping document with resource requirements identified	Political consensus for clean growth planning policy Resource requirements identified	Oct 2021	
3.4 Using the outputs from action 3.3, develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework that identifies latest evidence, good practice, position statements and policies for Local Plans and Development Management	Kent Planning Officers Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (EPE and ED) • Kent Planning Authorities • Kent Developers Group • Design South East • Kent and Medway Economic Partnership 	Evidence, guidance, case studies, position statements, policies, training materials	New developments are sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient	Oct 2023	 








Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
3.5 Raise clean growth / climate change awareness and skills of planners, planning committees, developers and supply chain	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Planning Officers Group • LA Planning Committees • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent Developers Group • LoCASE 	Net-zero planning seminar / CPD training events	The planning community, developers and supply chain are more aware of clean growth opportunities and champion low carbon and climate resilient developments	Ongoing	 
3.6 Develop tailored Kent and Medway public sector buildings design guidance for new build and refurbishment.	Kent Estates Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities / Infrastructure) • All Local Authorities • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue • NHS • Schools 	Design guidance for public sector new buildings and refurbishment	New public sector buildings and refurbishment projects will have sustainability designed into them from the start, reducing the cost of later retrofit and reducing emissions.	March 2022	 



PRIORITY 4: CLIMATE EMERGENCY INVESTMENT FUND

Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'Climate Emergency' carbon sequestration, offset and renewable energy investment scheme and fund.

RATIONALE

Before the coronavirus pandemic, funding for climate emergency actions came from many disparate sources. There is likely to be significantly less funding available for environmental projects in the short to medium term, so ensuring money is invested in projects that have the greatest impact and bring multiple benefits will become increasingly important. A climate emergency investment fund for Kent and Medway will pool the funding available and match it to the most cost effective and biggest impact schemes. The fund will be informed by renewable energy and natural capital opportunities studies.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
4.1 Review existing internal and external funding streams, expertise and opportunities that could be used to deliver ELES actions. Develop into a central collaborative resource.	Kent Climate Change Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent Nature Partnership • SE Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) 	All potential funding streams identified, and key contacts established. Information hosted on CCN Teams site.	New opportunities for external funding and collaboration identified Increased access to finance	July 2021	
4.2 Accelerate the 'supply and demand' of nature-based climate solutions (understand demand, assess skills/capacity gaps, develop resources to support delivery)	SE Nature Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County Council • Kent County Council • Kent Wildlife Trust • SE Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) 	Engagement with businesses, farm clusters, councils, NGOs Synthesis report Interim standards / metrics Guidelines and training resources	Nature-based organisations, are better able to monetise their services Increased carbon sequestration and improved climate resilience	April 2021 – March 2022	 
4.3 Create the framework for a SE-wide 'brokerage hub' that can bring together 'buyers' and 'sellers' to co-develop nature-based carbon sequestration projects	SE Nature Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County Council • Kent County Council • Kent Wildlife Trust • SE Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) 	Review of existing brokerage hub models Identification of business model for development of a SE brokerage hub	Increased carbon sequestration and improved climate resilience New income streams for the rural economy	April 2021 – March 2022	 
4.4 Establish a working group and evaluate options for a Kent and Medway climate emergency investment fund / offset fund to support local natural capital and renewable energy projects.	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Finance Officers Group • SE / Kent Nature Partnership • Kent and Medway Environment Group • Kent and Medway Economic Partnership 	Working Group set up Options appraisal / business case for Kent and Medway Carbon Offset Fund	A preferred option to attract investment in environmental projects in Kent and Medway has been identified. Political buy-in and resources to progress project can be secured.	March 2023	 






Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
4.5 Develop a portfolio of 'shovel-ready' domestic retrofit and renewable energy projects suitable for external funding	Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • Registered Providers • Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership • SE Energy Hub Utilities 	<p>Portfolio of investment-ready projects</p> <p>External funding bids</p>	External funding and finance opportunities are maximised	Ongoing	
4.6 Develop a portfolio of quick wins and 'shovel-ready' natural capital / carbon sequestration projects suitable for delivery through Net Gain or other external funding	Kent Nature Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Nature Partnership • Kent Downs and High Weald AONB Units • Medway Flood Partnership • Catchment Partnerships 	<p>Portfolio of investment-ready projects</p> <p>Net Gain pipeline of projects</p> <p>External funding bids</p>	External funding and finance opportunities are maximised	Ongoing	











PRIORITY 5: BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAMME


Develop Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plans and programmes for public sector, domestic and businesses.

RATIONALE

Over the next 30 years, most of the emissions from the built environment will be from buildings or communities that are already in existence today. In addition, some of our most vulnerable residents are living in cold, energy inefficient homes which are expensive to run; worsening health problems and causing fuel poverty. Funding for building improvements is fragmented and complicated by property ownership issues, and projects often need to be done at scale to attract the investment needed.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
5.1 Develop organisational action plans to deliver Net Zero public sector estate by 2030 at the latest. Monitor and report progress.	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • NHS • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue • LASER 	<p>Individual public sector estate Net Zero plans</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports / progress papers</p>	<p>Emissions from public sector estate are significantly reduced</p> <p>Reduced public sector spending on energy and water</p>	Dec 2021	
5.2 Implement a public sector building retrofit programme (energy and water), identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where possible.	Kent Estates Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • NHS • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue • Kent Connects • LASER 	<p>Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund bids</p> <p>Public sector carbon reduction projects delivered in partnership and maximising public sector funding</p>	<p>New infrastructure and facilities increase up take of electric vehicles and active travel</p>	Ongoing	 
5.3 Develop a comprehensive Kent and Medway Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (excluding social housing) that identifies the actions and financial mechanisms for all income levels, to reduce emissions (from electricity, heat and water) from all property types, with evidence-led targets and costed actions where possible.	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • SE Energy Hub • Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership • Utilities • National Residential Landlords Association • Public Health (KCC and Medway Council) • Trading Standards (KCC and Medway Council) 	<p>Engagement workshops</p> <p>C-Path project tool and analysis</p> <p>Evidence base and strategic analysis of Net Zero pathway</p> <p>Domestic retrofit strategy and action plan</p> <p>Identification of preferred finance model(s)</p>	<p>Barriers identified</p> <p>Delivery partners understand the scale of action and investment required to decarbonise the domestic sector</p> <p>Resources prioritised and economies of scale utilised</p> <p>Retrofitting skills and jobs attracted into Kent</p>	Sept 2022	 

5.4 Secure funding and implement projects identified in the Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (excluding social housing)	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • SE Energy Hub • Utilities • Public Health (KCC and Medway Council) • Trading Standards (KCC and Medway Council) 	<p>Funding bids</p> <p>Retrofit projects</p> <p>Targeted advice</p>	<p>Reduction in carbon emissions from the domestic sector</p> <p>Reduced levels of fuel poverty</p> <p>Reduction in the number of privately owned homes with an EPC rating below D and more at C</p>	Sept 2022 onwards	 
5.5 Develop costed action plans to deliver Net Zero social housing by 2030. Monitor and report progress.	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock holding authorities (Medway, Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Folkestone & Hythe, Thanet) 	<p>Action Plans for each stock holding authority</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports / progress papers</p>	<p>Reduction in carbon emissions from the domestic sector</p> <p>Reduced levels of fuel poverty</p>	March 2022	 
5.6 Support and facilitate Registered Providers to develop costed action plans to decarbonise their housing stock	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • Registered Providers 	<p>Action plans and strategies</p> <p>Archetype assessments</p>	<p>No social housing with an EPC rating below D and more at C</p> <p>Resources prioritised and economies of scale utilised</p> <p>Stimulation of local whole house retrofit market</p>	March 2022	 
5.7 Implement projects to improve the energy efficiency of social housing, focusing on whole house retrofit to PAS2035 standards and identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where possible.	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock holding authorities • Registered Providers • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership 	<p>Funding bids</p> <p>Retrofit projects</p> <p>Delivery of LAD1 and LAD2 retrofit schemes</p>	<p>Sustained growth of the retrofitting sector, supply chain and skills</p>	Ongoing to 2030	 
5.8 Update and deliver the Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy (in association with action 5.3); supporting vulnerable and fuel poor households to access affordable energy	Kent Housing Group - Private Sector Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • Public Health (KCC/Medway) • Utilities 	<p>Updated Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Kent Warm Homes scheme</p> <p>Collective switching scheme</p> <p>Off-gas connections scheme</p> <p>Delivery of LAD1 and LAD2 retrofit schemes</p>	<p>Reduced levels of fuel poverty</p> <p>Reduction in health problems linked to cold, damp homes</p>	Ongoing	 





			Targeted advice			
5.9 Support and enforce private sector landlords to make improvements to rental properties	Kent Housing Group - Private Sector Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District/Borough (Private Sector Housing / Environmental Health) • Trading Standards (KCC and Medway Council) • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • National Residential Landlords Association 	<p>Awareness raising, training and engagement material</p> <p>Enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations</p> <p>Reports to Trading Standards where sub-standard rented accommodation is found</p>	<p>Reduced levels of fuel poverty</p> <p>Reduction in emissions from the domestic sector</p> <p>Improved quality of rental accommodation and subsequent improvements to health</p>	Ongoing	 
5.10 Support SMEs to retrofit energy efficiency and renewable technologies in business premises through LOCASE grant funding	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • LOCASE partners • Low Carbon Kent 	LOCASE support programme (SEE PRIORITY 9)	<p>Reduction in emissions from the non-domestic sector</p> <p>Market stimulation</p> <p>Cost reduction for SMEs</p>	From Oct 2020	 
5.11 Assess the feasibility and funding mechanisms for 'place-based' retrofit schemes (eg. street-by-street, whole business park, community scale), combining business, residential, public realm retrofit schemes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • All Local Authorities • Kent and Medway Economic Partnership • Low Carbon Kent • SE Energy Hub 	Place based retrofit opportunity study	Increased understanding of future retrofit opportunities	2023	







PRIORITY 6: TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY











Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change.




RATIONALE

Tackling poor air quality and achieving safe and effective transport networks that support low carbon economic recovery are key challenges for Kent and Medway. Greenhouse gas emissions from transport have remained stubbornly high, but the coronavirus pandemic triggered a change in digital and travel behaviours that could be utilised to ensure emissions from transport are reduced permanently. Tackling these issues and opportunities will require a combination of measures that improve infrastructure and facilities to encourage low carbon travel and drive behaviour change. We must also continue to tackle poor air quality hotspots, through the implementation of Air Quality Management Plans.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
6.1 Review business mileage, set challenging reduction targets in light of COVID ways of working and expand sustainable travel polices that reduce the need to travel, encourage modal shift to active travel/public transport or increase car sharing.	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • NHS • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue 	Business milage reduction targets for public sector organisations New/revised sustainable travel policies	Greenhouse gas emissions from business travel is reduced	Dec 2021	
6.2 Work in partnership to influence and develop plans to transition public sector fleets to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV).	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • NHS • Kent Police • Kent Fire and Rescue • Kent Estates Partnership 	Plans and targets to transition public sector fleets to ULEV Good practice shared Joint funding bids	Increasing numbers of ULEVs in public sector fleets Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from fleet mileage	Ongoing	
6.3 Implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for <u>Kent</u> and for <u>Medway</u> ; to develop motor-vehicle free routes for walking and cycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where most benefit will be achieved • Identify gaps in the network and develop schemes to join up existing routes • Identify opportunities linked to new developments 	Kent County Council Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Public Rights of Way / Highways) • Medway Council (Public Rights of Way / Highways) • Planning Authorities • Developers • Public Health 	More good quality walking and cycling commuter routes	More people walking and cycling for trips less than 2 miles Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from local travel Improved air quality	Ongoing until 2028	 

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership to access government funding and maximise developer contributions to fund new schemes 						
6.4 Update and implement the <u>Kent Active Travel Strategy</u> and implement the <u>Medway Sustainable School Travel Strategy</u> to promote and incentivise walking and cycling through the provision of infrastructure, facilities, training and engagement	Kent County Council Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCC (Transport Innovations) Medway Council Public Health District and Borough Councils Developers 	<p>Bids to Access Fund / Emergency Active Travel Fund</p> <p>More good quality walking and cycling commuter routes</p> <p>More/improved facilities for active travel</p> <p>Training</p>	<p>More people walking and cycling to school/work</p> <p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from commuting (work and school)</p> <p>Improved air quality</p>	<p>Ongoing with update by 2022 (Kent)</p> <p>Ongoing until 2023 (Medway)</p>	 
6.5 Work in partnership to prepare and implement local walking and cycling strategies	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District / Borough Councils Kent County Council (Transport Innovations) 	Local walking and cycling strategies	<p>More people walking and cycling for trips less than 2 miles</p> <p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from local travel</p> <p>Improved air quality</p>	Ongoing	
6.6 Work with public transport providers to achieve EURO VI emissions standards or better	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCC (Public Transport) Public transport providers (via Quality Bus Partnerships) 	More EURO VI (or better) vehicles on Kent and Medway's roads	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from public transport</p> <p>Improved air quality</p>	Dec 2022	
6.7 Trial new transport projects that drive the transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicle public transport	Kent County Council Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCC (Public Transport) Medway Council District / Borough Councils Parish and Town Councils Bus manufacturers/operators COMPAID – voluntary sector 	<p>Fully electric bus routes in Dartford and Dover (FastTrack) and Canterbury</p> <p>Electric minibus trial in partnership with COMPAID and evaluation report</p> <p>Hydrogen fuelled bus trials (linked to green Hydrogen facility in Canterbury District)</p> <p>Small scale electric bus trial with ASD and BYD (Medway)</p>	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from public transport</p> <p>Improved air quality</p> <p>Better business case for future electric or hydrogen bus adoption</p>	2020-23	 

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
6.8 Trial and implement projects that support modal shift away from car ownership and/or reduce car dependency	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent County Council • District / Borough Councils • Fast Track • Public Transport providers 	<p>Mobility as a Service (MaaS) in Ebbsfleet</p> <p>District rural transport pilots and evaluation reports</p>	<p>Seamless journey planning and connectivity</p> <p>Improved access to public transport in rural communities</p>	2021-23	 
6.9 Work with private transport sector, including school transport providers and taxi licencing to incentivise and switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities (Taxi licencing / Highways) • School transport providers • Taxi companies • Low Carbon Kent 	<p>Reviewed / updated taxi licencing</p> <p>Engagement with private transport sector</p>	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from private transport sector</p> <p>Improved air quality</p>	Ongoing	
6.10 Consider future opportunities and interventions for reducing emissions from freight and international traffic including use of rivers and wharfs, improved journey efficiency, improved efficiency of vehicles and FORS and ECOSTars schemes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Highways) • Medway Council (Highways) • Road Haulage Association • Freight Transport Association • Port of Dover • Port of London Authority • Eurotunnel • Highways England • Cross River Partnership • Dartford Borough Council 	<p>Engagement with large freight/distribution companies, haulage industry and Ports</p> <p>Delivery of Cross River Partnership's Clean Air Villages 4 project (Dartford)</p>	<p>Better understanding of issues, opportunities and required interventions – for future development and implementation</p>	2023	
6.11 Work collaboratively with the public and private sector to roll out electric charging points across Kent and Medway, in line with local EV strategies	Kent County Council Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • Kent Estates Partnership • Kent and Medway Environment Group • KALC • Schools 	<p>Local EV strategies</p> <p>More EV chargers in Kent and Medway</p>	<p>Increased EV charging capacity in Kent and Medway</p> <p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport</p> <p>Improved air quality</p>	ongoing	 
6.12 Support local SMEs to switch to ULEV vans through the Kent REVS Up for Cleaner Air scheme	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • Commercial Services Kent Ltd • Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce 	<p>Local business trials of electric vans (Kent REVS project)</p> <p>Redistribution of electric vans at end of project</p>	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport</p> <p>Improved air quality</p> <p>Increased number of electric vans on Kent's roads</p>	Feb 2021-Jan 2023	 
6.13 Assess the feasibility of developing 'low carbon transport hubs' for EV cars, e-bikes and push bikes	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Highways) • Medway Council (Highways) • District / Borough Councils • Parish / Town Councils 	<p>Project concept and funding bid</p>	<p>Concept feasibility understood and roles identified</p>	2023	 








Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
6.14 Tackle poor air quality hotspots through the implementation of Air Quality Action Plans	Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership London Air Quality Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities with Air Quality Management Areas • KCC / Medway Council (Highways and Public Health) 	<p>Initiatives to improve air quality</p> <p>Partnership funding bids to deliver county wide action</p>	Improved air quality in hotspot areas	Ongoing	
6.15 Continue to work with government to increase the number of homes and businesses with access to fast broadband	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Economic Development) • BDUK • Openreach Ltd 	5,000 rural homes and businesses connected with fibre through BDUK project extension	Faster and more reliable broadband service to support more home/flexible working practices	June 2023	 






PRIORITY 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation

RATIONALE

Securing a low carbon, sustainable economic recovery will require us to transform the way we generate energy. Whilst some of this will be done at the national level, we must also support new low-carbon energy infrastructure opportunities, such as those presented in the Tri-LEP Energy Strategy. We will focus on supporting opportunities that allow more of our energy to be produced locally and from renewable sources and increasing the number of new developments supplied by local energy centres and district heating schemes.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
7.1 Undertake a renewable energy (and storage) opportunities study for Kent and Medway focusing on all existing and emerging technologies and avoiding unintended negative impacts	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC / Medway Council • All Local Authorities • UKPN 	Renewable energy opportunities study	Evidence can be utilised to develop better funding bids and projects	2021-22	 
7.2 Work in partnership to identify, support and promote new renewable energy projects across Kent and Medway, maximising funding from the Growth Fund, future Prosperity Fund and SE Energy Hub	Kent and Medway Economic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) • SE Energy Hub • BEIS 	Funding bids and renewable energy projects (if successful)	Market stimulation of renewable energy sector Increased energy security	Ongoing	
7.3 Continue to install solar panels on suitable public sector buildings and land, including offices, schools and landfill sites	Kent Estates Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Authorities • NHS • Kent Fire and Rescue • Kent Police • Schools • Saalex / BEIS 	Solar panel installations	Reduction in greenhouse emissions from public sector estate Reduction in public sector energy costs	Ongoing	 
7.4 Develop and implement the Maidstone Heat Project	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • UK Government Heat Network Delivery Unit • Maidstone Borough Council • Maidstone Prison • Network Rail 	Maidstone Heat Network is operational Potential for expansion identified pending further funding/feasibility	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for public sector and commercial buildings in Maidstone	Completion April 2023	 









7.5 Identify the barriers and local authority role in supporting households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies. Incorporate findings into action 5.3 (domestic retrofit strategy)	Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • SE Energy Hub • All Local Authorities • Utilities • Low Carbon Homes 	Workshop and report to identify barriers, public sector role and priority next steps	Barriers to roll-out identified	March 2022	
7.6 Develop and implement projects to support households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies. (linked to action 5.4 – deliver domestic retrofit strategy)	Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • All Local Authorities • SE Energy Hub • Utilities • Trading Standards (KCC / Medway Council) 	Solar Together Kent scheme Pilot solar and battery storage project (Triple-A) Pilot heat-pump project concept and funding bid	More homes using renewable technologies Reduction in emissions from the domestic sector Market stimulation	Ongoing	 
7.7 Provide technical support for community renewable energy projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • SE Energy Hub • Community groups 	Successful community renewable energy projects	More community renewable energy projects	Ongoing	
7.8 Support the development of future housing micro-grids, smart energy grids, and low carbon heat networks for new build homes	Kent Housing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership • Kent Developers Group • Kent Planning Officers Group • All Local Authorities • Business and supply chain 	Good practice, guidance, case studies and technical seminar	Increased awareness and support for emerging low carbon and smart energy	2022	

PRIORITY 8: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement a multi-functional, natural capital opportunity and investment programme – focusing on environmental projects that store carbon, increase climate change resilience, improve air quality and soil health, and increase biodiversity.

RATIONALE

Soil, trees, hedgerows, grassland, wetlands and maritime habitats all store carbon, so improving land management practices and increasing coverage of these habitats will be essential if we are to achieve our net-zero target. In addition, our actions to increase carbon storage can also support our efforts to respond to the ecological emergency, support the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and increase resilience to climate change. The development of an opportunity and investment programme will ensure resources can be targeted at the most appropriate projects, capable of generating the most benefits.











Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
8.1 Undertake an assessment of Kent and Medway's opportunities for natural solutions to climate change	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Natural Env. and Coast) • Burro Happold • Kent Nature Partnership • Local Authorities 	<p>Natural solutions to climate change assessment report</p> <p>Results fed into Kent Nature Recovery Strategy</p>	<p>There is increased capacity for Kent and Medway's natural environment to store carbon and offset the county's greenhouse gas emissions: bringing additional benefits such as reduced air and water pollution, increased flood storage capacity, improved biodiversity and providing health, cultural and leisure opportunities for local communities.</p>	March 2021 (complete)	 
8.2 Using the results of the opportunity study, develop a framework for natural solutions to climate change, considering both mitigation and adaptation	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Natural Env. and Coast) • Kent Nature Partnership • Kent and Medway Environment Group • All Local Authorities 	<p>Framework for natural solutions to climate change, linked to Kent Nature Recovery Strategy</p>		March 2023	 
8.3 Develop and implement a strategy to establish 1.5 million new trees (or their carbon sequestration equivalent) in Kent and Medway	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Trees Group) • All Local Authorities • Kent Downs and High Weald AONBs • Forestry Commission • Kent Wildlife Trust • Woodland Trust • National Trust 	<p>1.5 million trees (or equivalent) planted</p>		Ongoing	 
8.4 Develop cost effective and innovative approaches to establishing trees outside woodlands whilst strengthening biosecurity, through the Promoting Trees Outside Woodlands Project	Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Natural Environment and Coast / Highways) • Highways England • Forestry Commission • Natural England • Tree Council • Network Rail 	<p>Urban tree establishment pilot</p> <p>Study into boosting community tree nurseries</p> <p>Study into subsidised new tree schemes</p>		Oct 2020 – March 2023	 

PRIORITY 9: SUPPORTING LOW CARBON BUSINESS

Develop and implement a business recovery and support programme for Kent and Medway businesses to cut costs and win new business

RATIONALE

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on local businesses, and many will need support to recover. In addition, whilst many local businesses have already taken action to save money and reduce their impact on the environment, our evidence shows that this activity needs to be expanded and rapidly accelerated if we are to achieve our low carbon vision. A dual pronged approach to local business support, which utilises the considerable purchasing power of Kent and Medway's public sector and supports businesses to reduce their environmental impact will help drive a low carbon economic recovery.






Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
9.1 Undertake a supply chain analysis of the economic opportunities from the low carbon sector in Kent and the wider South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area	Kent and Medway Economic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) 	Supply chain mapping analysis	Evidence can be utilised to attract funding and grow the low carbon economy within Kent and Medway	Dec 2021	 
9.2 Support local SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and public sector suppliers to complete Steps to Environmental Management (STEM) training	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce 	STEM training and support	<p>SMEs and public sector suppliers are supported to increase resource efficiency</p> <p>Public sector supply chain emissions are identified</p>	Ongoing	 
9.3 Offer a low carbon support programme (LOCASE), for SMEs, including grants to reduce costs and carbon, and contribute to growth of the low carbon goods and environmental services sector	Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce 	Low carbon support programme for SMEs	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from local SMEs</p> <p>Increased resource efficiency of SMEs</p> <p>Job/business creation and retention</p>	Ongoing until July 2023	 
9.4 Support the development of the offshore wind sector and local supply chain	Low Carbon Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) 	Inn2Power project	<p>Market stimulation of local supply chain</p> <p>Increased trans-national collaboration</p>	Ongoing until April 2021	 
9.5 Drive an increase in the local circular economy within SMEs and Social Enterprises	Low Carbon Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) 	Upcycle Your Waste project BLUEPRINT project	Increased waste recovery / reuse	Ongoing until June 2023	 

PRIORITY 10: COMMUNICATIONS

Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.

RATIONALE

We will not tackle the climate emergency through technology alone: our net-zero future will only be achieved if we successfully change perceptions, behaviour and social norms. Despite a recent surge in public interest in climate change there remain many psychological, social and cultural barriers to behaviour change, alongside a lack of physical capability or opportunity. These barriers are compounded by many competing voices seeking to advance their own part of the environmental agenda. We will need to work closely with our partners to develop simple, tailored and targeted communications that raise awareness and encourage a change in perceptions and behaviour.

Action	Champion	Delivery partner (lead in bold)	Output	Outcome	Timeline	Resource
10.1 Develop a joint communications, engagement and behaviour change strategy and action plan	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Climate Change Network 	Joint communications, engagement and behaviour change strategy	Collaboration extends the reach and impact of messages and maximises the effectiveness of resources	March 2021 (complete)	
10.2 Develop a communications working group/network to ensure consistency of messages and facilitate joint working	Kent Climate Change Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Public sector communication and engagement officers 	Working group and shared Microsoft Teams site		April 2021 (complete)	
10.2 Hold an annual environment conference to raise the profile and facilitate cross-sector collaboration and collective action	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent and Medway Environment Group 	Annual conference	Decision makers recognise the scale of action required to reduce emissions to net-zero and are motivated to take action in partnership.	Annual	 £
10.3 Maximise the impact of COP26 by developing and promoting a shared calendar of events and resources	Kent and Medway Environment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Climate Change Network • Charities, communities, groups and partnerships with environmental interests 	COP26 Kent and Medway / SE calendar of events and resources	Collaboration maximises resources	Dec 2021	 £
10.4 Implement joint communication campaigns to reduce air pollution around schools and children's centres	Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership / Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership • KCC / Medway (Public Health) • NHS • KCC (Transport Innovations) • KM Group 	Targeted communications and engagement campaign for Clean Air Day and evaluation report	Residents, employees, elected members, businesses and visitors to Kent and Medway understand how their actions impact the environment; are aware of the risks of climate	2021-22	 £

10.5 Implement joint communication campaigns to increase modal shift to active travel / public transport	Kent County Council / Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Transport Innovations) • Medway Council • Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership • KCC (Public Health) 	Targeted communications and engagement campaign evaluation report Kent Connected website	change and poor air quality; appreciate the value of the natural environment; and are sufficiently well informed and motivated to adopt more sustainable and low carbon behaviours. This increased awareness and engagement increases the impact of the other programmes developed through this Strategy.	Ongoing	 
10.6 Implement joint communication campaigns to help residents reduce their fuel bills / save energy (linked to action 5.4)	Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership • All Local Authorities • Energy companies 	Targeted communications and engagement campaign and evaluation report		Ongoing	 
10.7 Implement joint communication campaigns to help residents reduce their water bills / save water	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Southern Water • South East Water • Affinity Water 	Targeted communications and engagement campaign and evaluation report		2021	 
10.8 Implement joint communication campaigns to reduce resident's environmental impact (Kent Green Action and District-level campaigns)	Kent County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Kent Climate Change Network • Kent Resource Partnership 	Kent Green Action digital campaigns District-level campaigns (eg. Planet Dartford) Evaluation reports		Ongoing	 
10.9 Implement joint communication campaigns to encourage and support SMEs to adopt environmentally sustainable practices	Low Carbon Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • All Local Authorities • Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce 	Targeted communications and engagement campaign and evaluation report Low Carbon Kent website and Linked In group		Ongoing	 
10.10 Develop shared resources for public sector staff engagement	Kent Climate Change Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities) • Public sector communications officers 	Communication and engagement material for public sector staff		2021-22	
10.11 Monitor and review effectiveness of communication campaigns and develop targeted behaviour change programmes.	KCC (Sustainable Business and Communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All delivery leads and partners for this priority 	Evaluation report Business case / funding applications for targeted behaviour change programme		Future resources are directed at the most cost-effective campaigns. Behaviour change campaigns continually improve.	March 2022