

This report follows the refreshed Implementation Plan which can be found [here](#).

Carbon Reduction

Action 1.1: *Continue to deliver local energy efficiency and emission management strategies across owned estates and local areas, monitoring progress regularly.*

PROGRESS: On Track. More work on this action will continue in 2026/27 and beyond.

Across the county, councils continue to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their estates and operations (Scopes 1 and 2) through the installation of renewable technologies (particularly solar PV installations), improved fleet choices (including alternative fuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), and Electric Vehicles (EVs)), and retrofit programmes, including upgrades to leisure centres.

Authority	Baseline year emissions (2019/20) (tCO ₂ e)			2024/25 emissions (tCO ₂ e)			Variation	Notable project(s)
	Scope 1	Scope 2	Total	Scope 1	Scope 2	Total		
Ashford			1,277	709	439	1,148	-10.6%	
Canterbury	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>		Retrofitted Elvis House to Passivhaus standard which is estimated to save 6.3 tonnes of CO ₂ e per year.
Dartford	1,024	333	1,357	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>		Large-scale decarbonisation of Fairfield Leisure Centre (ASHPs, solar thermal, PV, LED), plus >700 household energy measures.
Dover	1,600	641	2,242	1,164	219	1,384	-47.3%	Major redevelopment at Tides/Deal using gas-free operation is expected to reduce around 400 tCO ₂ e annually
Folkestone & Hythe	399	307	706	291	276	567	-21.8%	Emissions reductions largely due to reduced Diesel for council vehicles -44%, Red diesel use -89%, Gas emissions -11%, and Street lighting -20%

Gravesham	1,494	765	2,259	1,391	455	1,846	-20.1%	Energy efficiency measures at major operational sites; converted 15% of fleet into electric, and remaining fleet transitioned to use 100% HVO fuel since April 2025.
Kent County Council (KCC)	11,089.2	8,213.34	19,302	1,427.27	5,464.15	6,891	-94.7%	
Maidstone				876.27	855.7	1,732		Upgraded Depot solar (169.8kWp capacity) and added a battery. Switched to fully green tariff in October 2025. Approximately 7% of electricity is self-generated
Medway	4,558.9	5,059.65	9,618.6	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>		Street lighting LED programme and a decarbonisation programme across 11 council owned buildings including LED lights, water saving devices and solar panels.
Sevenoaks	1,209	151	1,360	1,678	504	2,182	46.4%	<i>Note: Figures not directly comparable owing to earlier calculations (2019/20) only including emissions from the SDC Offices and Dunbrik Depot, whereas more recent calculations also include emissions from Sevenoaks, Swanley and Edenbridge Leisure Centres.</i> 1,000 solar PV panels have been installed at White Oak Leisure Centre in Swanley which are assisting in reducing energy use and running costs and produce power all year round.
Swale	185	173	358	92	184	276	-25.8%	Sheerness Revival project integrating ASHP, biosolar and insulation. Installation of a 292 panel solar system on the roof of Swale House will offset around 50% of on-site annual electricity consumption.
Thanet	1,613	674	2,287	1,730	552	2,283	-0.18%	Installation of a 284 kWp solar PV system on Ramsgate Leisure Centre, reducing 50.7 tCO ₂ e per year. Transitioned waste fleet fuel to HVO in 2025 which will reduce emissions by 1,320 tCO ₂ e annually. 49 new affordable housing units built to EPC A including ASHPs, solar, EV charging, heat recovery. Moved 281 of Thanet District Council's sites onto the LASER Energy "Green Basket".

Tonbridge & Malling	139	198	327	130	109	240	-30.6%	Electric vehicles have been introduced into the fleet, reducing Scope 1 emissions. Since 2021, electricity procurement has been REGO-backed, contributing to a reduction in Scope 2 emissions. Decarbonisation of the TMBC office at Kings Hill has commenced, including changes to building use whilst works progress.
Tunbridge Wells	886	1,704	2,590	687	723	1,410	-59%	Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) were installed at the Weald Leisure Centre, North Farm Depot and temporary accommodation properties. 88% of vehicle fleet are electric or hybrid. Waste contract optimisation reduced diesel consumption by 60,000 litres. Town Hall rationalisation and hybrid working has helped reduce business travel mileage by almost 100,000 miles per year. Solar PV arrays at The Amelia Scott, Weald Leisure, Tunbridge Wells Leisure, North Farm Depot.

Table 1

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have reduced significantly across all Authorities against the 2019/20 baseline (when the ELES was introduced). Progress against Scope 3 emissions are detailed under Action 2.2.

Public Sector Decision-Making

Action 2.1: Design, test, and implement a Sustainable Procurement Toolkit and an Environmental Impact Assessment framework to align public sector operations with environmental objectives. Provide targeted training and support to upskill staff across Local Authorities in their effective use.

PROGRESS: On Track

Next steps: Sustainable Procurement Toolkit to be launched mid 26/27.

A Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Toolkit has been co-developed by KCC and the Climate Change Network (CCN). The toolkit is being finalised and is expected to be launched in mid-2026/27. Fifteen KCC subject matter experts have been involved in reviewing content. The draft toolkit includes 14 spend categories and 13 environmental themes and supports users at all points of the golden thread from early design thinking through to Key Performance Indicators development. The Toolkit's evolution has been discussed consistently at the CCN Procurement Group's quarterly meetings. KCC has worked bilaterally with some districts and boroughs to put the thinking into practice with live procurements. A package of training to support the Toolkit is in early design. KCC used the opportunity of its Supplier Day in January 2026 to tell the market about the Toolkit, with an intention to share non-commercially sensitive content so that suppliers understand expectations and prepare.

KCC have also developed an Environmental Impact Assessment (EnvIA). The objectives of the EnvIA are to

- Ensure that decision making complies with KCC's environment strategies to manage risk effectively and secure benefits
- Increase prominence of the environment within decision making to normalise this as an integral topic
- Ensure that decision makers can make well-informed decisions, based on full facts about impacts and trade-offs

The EnvIA is framed around the six goals of KCC's Environment Plan and considers associated Growth and Health topics. Eight senior subject matter owners have contributed to the tool's development. The concept was piloted with 12 KCC projects and one district and borough project (25 individual stakeholders). Design and governance continue within KCC.

Plans to share the EnvIA with district and borough partners are forthcoming (2026/27).

Action 2.2: Develop a standardised approach to Scope 3 reporting.

PROGRESS: Progress made by individual authorities. However, still under development for most.

Scope 3 emissions represent upwards of 70-80% of a local authority's total emissions profile. Authorities are starting to explore their influence over service delivery and supply chain. Maidstone Borough Council has conducted an initial Scope 3 baseline analysis using a procured CO₂ analysis system, and by engaging with their top 15 suppliers.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council have also begun to analyse their indirect emissions for the year 2024/25. Scope 3 emissions monitoring is a complex process that requires careful consideration of things such as historical contracts and rolling extensions, amongst other factors, including Government's GHG conversion average factors.

For some local authorities, leisure centre emissions fall under their Scope 3, and a lot of work has been done to decarbonise many of these sites. For example, Tonbridge and Malling completed installation of additional solar panels at Larkfield Leisure Centre and the site is now generating an estimated 215kWh per annum through solar PV alone.

The development of a shared approach to Scope 3 reporting is set to commence in 2026/27.

Planning and Development

Action 3.1: Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth and climate resilience. Integrate advice into Local Planning Authority decision-making by advocating with planners.

PROGRESS: Work will continue in 2026/27

Most Local Authorities have participated in workshops that will contribute to the Kent Design Guide refresh, although adoption intentions are not currently clear as this work will continue in 2026. Several authorities align the guide with local design codes or Local Plan processes.

Some districts have confirmed engagement with the East Kent Design Code, and Gravesham Borough Council has developed a 'Design for Gravesham' document, which has a section on energy efficiency and resilience, as well as retrofit.

Resident and Community Support

Action 4.1: Develop and implement a Kent and Medway Homes Retrofit Plan. Outline collaborative actions to improve health, environment and reduce domestic emissions across a range of property types and tenures, while improving the skills capacity within Kent and Medway.

PROGRESS: On Track

Colleagues in local authorities and others in healthcare, planning, education, housing and climate change roles, have contributed to the development of the Kent and Medway Homes Retrofit Action Plan (HRAP) through online workshops and consultations. Endorsement from a

range of stakeholders will be sought throughout Summer 2026, after which the HRAP will be published.

Action 4.2: Update the Kent and Medway Fuel Poverty Strategy, supporting fuel poor households to reduce their energy consumption, access social tariffs and other available support.

PROGRESS: This work will commence following the publication of the HRAP. Many Local Authorities continue to support households in, or at risk of, fuel poverty, despite this (see Action 4.3, below).

Action 4.3: Collaborate with local residents and communities to promote and champion energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Local Authorities are making progress against this action through a range of activities and grant-funded project delivery, supporting residents to improve their homes and increasing awareness of energy efficiency measures.

Ashford

Ashford Borough Council are delivering fuel poverty support through the Warm Homes Healthy Futures programme, providing practical financial support to residents in collaboration with various internal teams, issuing fuel vouchers (22 in total, with a total value of £3,234), signposting to Government Warm Homes Local Grant Scheme (£15.5k of fuel debt cleared for vulnerable low income residents), as well as providing energy efficiency advice, including helping multiple households save around £734 on yearly consumption from supplier switches. Ashford are also delivering the Warm Homes Local Plan grant programme.

Canterbury

The authority has shown commitment to this action by match-funding £6.6m to the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund to enable most of its council housing stock to reach EPC C rating. The council has also installed solar PV in around 85 units of social housing, which shows direct collaboration with residents in adopting low carbon technologies.

Dartford

Dartford Borough Council are engaging with local residents to promote and champion energy efficiency and renewable technologies through communications via the council's website. They have supported 524 private homes and 218 council homes in the Borough to retrofit (including solar PV and battery storage installation, improved insulation, and boiler upgrades) through the Warm Homes Local Grant.

Dover

Dover District Council's climate and nature forum have supported community groups by providing thermal imaging cameras to support local residents in their retrofit journey.

Folkestone & Hythe

Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Sustainable Futures Forum (SFF) programme has actively collaborated with local residents, community groups and businesses to champion energy efficiency and wider sustainability action through a series of well-attended events in 2025–26. These events supported communities to access green funding, build skills, volunteer for environmental projects and form partnerships (around 355 partnership matches) around sustainable initiatives, including renewable and energy-focused projects. By combining practical support (such as grant-application guidance for the council's "Green Grant Programme"), networking and partnership-building, the programme has strengthened local capacity, increased participation in sustainability initiatives and fostered long-term collaboration to promote energy efficiency and renewable technologies across the district.

Gravesham

Gravesham Borough Council has collaborated closely with residents and community groups to promote energy efficiency, renewable technologies and sustainable behaviours. The council has championed renewable energy through participation in the Solar Together scheme, supporting 26 households to install solar panels, battery storage and EV charging, delivering long-term carbon savings. The Council supported 'DFG Heating grants' to support residents with energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating measures. The Council was able to assist six residents from the private housing sector to improve the energy efficiency of their homes using various insulation measures and green energy while also improving their health and welfare. This community-focused approach is reinforced through education in schools, digital communications and a dedicated webpage signposting grants, schemes and energy efficiency measures for residents, businesses and communities.

Kent County Council (KCC)

In 2025 KCC's Energy and Adaptation Team began co-chairing and hosting the [Kent Sustainable Communities Network](#) (SCN), comprised of roughly 15 community and grassroots groups (and counting) across Kent working on carbon reduction, environmental sustainability and community engagement. The network meets online monthly. Regular communications regarding upcoming events and funding opportunities for community groups are shared via email and through the Let's Talk Kent dedicated webpage.

All Kent and Medway Local Authorities, including KCC, continue to promote Switch Together Solar (formerly known as Solar Together,) which is managed by iChoosr. The collective purchasing model offers households and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) competitive pricing and vetted installers for solar PV systems, battery storage and electric vehicle chargers. Spring 2025 Phase Kent and Medway installations were completed by Q4 2025. More than 430 Solar PV systems or retrofit storage batteries were installed, totalling 1.88MW generating capacity, and estimated to avoid more than 330 tonnes CO₂e in the first year of operation.

To the end of March 2026, over 100 additional solar PV systems or retrofit storage batteries were installed as part of the Autumn 2025 Phase, totalling 0.5MW generating capacity, and estimated to avoid more than 84 tonnes CO₂e in the first year of operation. Autumn 2025 Phase installations will be complete by June 2026.

A breakdown of the number of installations and estimated GHG emissions avoided in the first year of operation, per Local Authority area, is detailed in Table 2, below.

Maidstone

Maidstone Borough Council has reinvested £150k of its capital budget to support community energy initiatives. The council started by surveying parish councils to determine interest levels in community energy. A total of 19 councils responded, showing a strong willingness from residents to participate in energy efficiency and renewable technology place-based projects. This also relates to Action 4.4.

Medway

Medway Council completed mobilisation activities at the end of 2025 to enable delivery of financial support under the Government's Warm Homes Local Grant Scheme from April 2026. 63 homeowners were supported to install energy efficiency measures in their properties funded by ECO4, Great British Insulation Scheme and HUG2 grant programmes.

Content has been published on the council's climate change social media channels to promote the Government's Clean Energy Campaign and to encourage residents and stakeholders to respond to the national consultation on clean heating solutions in the UK.

Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks District Council is engaging with local residents to promote and champion energy efficiency and renewable technologies through communications via the Council's website and the quarterly 'In Shape' magazine, delivered to all households in the district. The Council has supported 57 homes to install solar PV and battery storage, improved insulation and boiler upgrades through the Warm Homes Local Grant and Solar Together.

Swale

The Council has consistently promoted Solar Together through its communications, including social media, residents e-newsletter, and the Green Grid Forum newsletter.

Solar Together was also promoted via Inside Swale Spring edition, a magazine which is delivered to all households in the borough. The winter edition contained a dedicated page relating to household energy efficiency, with low-cost recommendations. It also signposted to National Energy Action support hotlines.

Thanet

Thanet attended and presented to local community groups at events, pop-ups and workshops. The Home Energy Advice service is designed to support residents across tenure, open to both fuel-poor and "able-to-pay" households seeking guidance.

To be more accessible, Thanet is expanding their core service to include more technologies like air source heat pump and whole house support. They are also in the early stages of setting up Community Energy Champions.

Tonbridge & Malling

The council undertook targeted promotion for both Spring and Autumn 2025 rounds of Solar Together with a total of 26 solar PV installations, 22 battery storage and 3 retrofit batteries

delivered. Round 3 of the Community Development Grants, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, distributed grants to a range of projects including energy-efficiency projects.

Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council funded and supported the promotion and communication for the first Climate and Nature Fair in Tunbridge Wells, delivered by Tunbridge Wells Climate and Nature (TWCAN). Almost 1,000 residents attended the fair, in which information was distributed to attendees about energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

Government grant-funded homes retrofit:

The Warm Homes: Local Grant and Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund are successors of the [Home Upgrade Grant 2 \(HUG2\)](#) and [Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund \(SHDF\)](#). Some Local Authorities in Kent and Medway have been allocated over [£25.6m](#) to help deliver retrofit 2025-2028, to reach vulnerable households, help private landlords meet their Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) targets, and complement other national schemes such as the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS).

Local Authority Area	Solar Together installations (Spring and Autumn 2025 phases installations to 31 March 2026)
Ashford	54 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 46.4tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 2 retrofit storage batteries
Canterbury	54 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 45.5tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 6 retrofit storage batteries
Dartford	19 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 16.2tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 1 retrofit storage battery
Dover	30 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 23.4tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 5 retrofit storage batteries
Folkestone & Hythe	53 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 45tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 1 retrofit storage battery
Gravesham	20 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 17.2tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 2 retrofit storage batteries
Maidstone	55 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 46.5tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 4 retrofit storage batteries
Medway	44 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 35.2tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 1 retrofit storage battery
Sevenoaks	31 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 26.1tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 4 retrofit storage batteries
Swale	46 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 39.2tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 4 retrofit storage batteries
Thanet	25 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 20.4tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 2 retrofit storage batteries
Tonbridge & Malling	24 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 19.5tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 3 retrofit storage batteries
Tunbridge Wells	43 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 36.1tCO ₂ e in year 1, plus 1 retrofit storage battery
<i>Totals</i>	<i>517 solar PV systems, estimated to avoid 416.8tCO₂e in year 1, plus 36 retrofit storage batteries</i>

Table 2

Action 4.4: Support community groups on community-owned energy projects with information, advice and resources.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Large-scale retrofit, solar adoption, and community-based sustainability programmes continue to expand.

Ashford

Ashford is working with Community Energy Pathways on a capacity building programme to establish an umbrella Community Energy (CE) scheme, called ACE (Ashford Community Energy). This will promote the concept of CE to attract membership with aim of setting up a community benefit society and Board. The group will then go on to develop 2 project bids for the GB Energy community energy grant - to start them off on their journey. While we anticipate that an ABC officer will be a board member, this will be an independent group. Section 106 funding was creatively used to fund the capacity building programme - effectively seed funding far more projects and carbon benefit than a single capital expenditure on a single building could have achieved. The project concept was developed in 2025, will start in June 2026 through to Jan 2027.

Dartford

Dartford have granted planning permission for 5 battery energy storage systems with a total power capacity of 68.9MW. This is not yet in development.

Dover

The council passed planning permission for a Battery Box installation in the Aylesham Community Trust car park.

Folkestone & Hythe

Kent Community Energy, a well-established community energy organisation, received two grants from the council's Green Grant Programme (totalling £210,000) and they have installed solar PV on community assets. These installations represent 147 kWh, with a 58% reduction in energy consumption and £19k annual savings, a huge win for communities and residents in the Folkestone & Hythe area.

Kent County Council

Working with the co-chair of the SCN, who is a community leader with extensive knowledge and experience on community energy, the council supported a community group and parish council to progress ideas and project concept for a community-owned/managed project in the Maidstone area, to prepare for the next round of GB Energy Community Fund (formerly the Community Energy Fund). KCC is actively looking to support more community groups interested in developing community energy projects and ideas.

Maidstone

Please refer to text in Action 4.3 above.

Medway

Medway Council's Climate Response Team has supported members of the existing Community Climate Working group to form the Medway Community Energy Project Working Group (MCEPWG). Following an open call for volunteers, approximately 20 individuals came forward to

participate. The MCEPWG, which first met at the end of December 2025, comprises a mix of local residents and community representatives who bring either relevant expertise in net zero, renewable energy and community action, or a strong personal commitment to addressing climate change and contributing positively to their local area. The group is currently exploring Community Interest Company status alongside identifying and prioritising potential projects.

Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club installed rooftop solar PV in March 2025, securing the club's future as a key community asset, supporting people's physical and mental health including those with disabilities, and expanding membership and offering. The installation has led to a reduction in energy costs allowing the club to invest more in what it can offer to the community, alongside a reduction in carbon emissions of 33 tonnes every year. The project was funded by various contributions including from the Bowls Club, Sevenoaks Town Council, Sport England and Sevenoaks District Council Community Infrastructure Levy.

Swale

Orchard Community Energy is located just outside of Sittingbourne and provides community grants through its profit. Swale Council takes an active role in promoting these through community forums. No planning applications were received in relation to community energy projects throughout 2025.

Thanet

Thanet works in close partnership with local community energy groups. The council acts as an enabling partner, providing these groups with information, strategic advice, and organisational support to help them map out, fund, and launch successful community-owned energy and renewable projects.

Tonbridge & Malling

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has previously explored opportunities relating to community-owned energy projects, but opportunities and ideas were not progressed in 2025.

Tunbridge Wells

TWBC adopted a Borough Climate Change Strategy, with specific actions proposed to review and support community energy. The council is working through these actions and looking to progress them in 2026.

Transport and Fleet

Action 5.1: Collaborate with public transport providers to develop and implement opportunities that transition petrol and diesel vehicles to sustainable alternatives.

PROGRESS: Ongoing / Varied. Several districts show strong fleet transition, while public transport collaboration is still emerging.

Borough / District	Measure(s) adopted
Ashford	
Canterbury	New electric bus routes added using the ZEBRA Fund

Dartford	Electric buses operating via the Fastrack service
Dover	Ultra-low emission and some electric buses via the Dover Fastrack service
Folkestone & Hythe	
Gravesham	
Kent County Council	KCC's Bus Service Funding grant will explore providing an incentive grant scheme for operators to improve vehicle fleets with respect to emissions and accessibility, in return for reciprocal service, reliability or passenger benefits. Alongside this, KCC has identified future new funding opportunities through the National Highways Designated Fund, further to the past success of obtaining funds from this source that enabled purchase in 2024/25 of electric minibuses for demand-responsive transport (DRT) services in the Ebbsfleet area.
Maidstone	
Medway	In August 2025, Nu-Venture undertook a trial of an electric single-deck demonstrator bus supplied by Volvo Bus UK. Transport team exploring options.
Sevenoaks	Used UK Shared Prosperity Fund to improve access at some train stations. Working with local schools to encourage behaviour change around rail travel and safety. Working with Southeastern on a car hire scheme at train stations. Active travel is a top priority for SBC.
Swale	
Thanet	The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) emphasises the importance of integrating walking and cycling networks with public transport interchanges. That has benefited from capital investment through the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Highway improvements have been made around the LOOP service and dedicated bus lane installed on the approach to QEQM (Hospital) in Feb 2025. Thanet District Council received the largest allocation (£1.28m) from the District Bus Shelter Grant, enabling widespread replacement, upgrades, or new installations of bus shelters across the district.
Tonbridge & Malling	
Tunbridge Wells	

Table 3

Action 5.2: Utilise taxi licensing regulations and Council procurement policies to increase the adoption of EVs in taxi services and school transport, aiming for a reduction in emissions.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Local authorities across Kent have taken different approaches towards this action, and some councils have made more progress than others. See table below for more detail on what has happened so far.

Borough / District	Measure(s) adopted
Ashford	
Canterbury	Free off-street overnight parking for taxis whilst charging
Dartford	Policy on emissions standards for licensed vehicles include ULEV, Petrol Hybrid Euro 5+, Petrol Euro 5+ and Diesel Euro 6+
Dover	Discounted license for EVs

Folkestone & Hythe	
Gravesham	All vehicles (with some exceptions) must meet or exceed the Euro 6 emissions standards. All newly licensed vehicles must be powered wholly by electricity.
Maidstone	
Medway	All vehicles (with some exceptions) must meet or exceed the Euro 6 emissions standards. Medway and Gravesham have a shared licensing service.
Sevenoaks	The EV charge point installed exclusively for taxis in Sevenoaks town centre in 2023 continues to be well used.
Swale	The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2025-2030 requires that all vehicle licence applications for newly licenced vehicles must be for a low emission vehicle (LEV).
Thanet	Encourages EV adoption in taxis by waiving standard licensing fees and removing maximum age limits for fully electric vehicles. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Tonbridge & Malling	
Tunbridge Wells	

Table 4

Action 5.3: Revise staff travel benefits and car user policies to support sustainable transport, including car clubs, EV lease options, and incentives for low-emission vehicles.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Many local authorities have adopted salary sacrifice schemes to encourage leasing of electric vehicles (EVs), active travel and sustainable modes of transport to and from work. Other approaches have been taken in areas of Kent regarding staff travel and car user policies. More details can be seen below.

Borough / District	Measure(s) adopted
Ashford	EV salary sacrifice scheme provided by Octopus Energy .
Canterbury	Advanced purchase schemes for season tickets for train travel and bulk purchases of bus tickets. Loans to purchase bicycles and accessories. Business cycle mileage can be charged at car mileage rates.
Dartford	Cycle to work scheme. Interest-free loan to purchase public transport season tickets for commuting.
Dover	
Folkestone & Hythe	FHDC has both a bike and car lease salary sacrifice scheme.
Gravesham	Discounts on bus fares (Arriva Employer Travel Club). Cycle to work scheme (25 successful applications). EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme (7 successful applications since launch in 2024).
KCC	Cycle to work scheme.
Maidstone	<i>It was noted that there was no progress against this action in 2025. A staff survey is planned for 2026 on this topic.</i>
Medway	The council has a dedicated Travel Initiatives Co-ordinator working on workplace travel plans. Currently working towards an approved and accredited travel plan following a staff survey conducted in 2025. Cycle to work scheme and interest-free loans to purchase annual rail or

	season bus tickets.
Sevenoaks	The Workplace Travel Plan includes initiatives such as car sharing scheme, use of a pool car, salary sacrifice for an EV lease scheme and cycle to work scheme. The council has noted an increase in uptake in these schemes, particularly the EV leasing scheme.
Swale	Swale Council participates in both the Octopus and Tusker EV salary sacrifices schemes. Two members off staff have begun leasing electric cars through these schemes. Six members of staff have participated in the Cycle to Work Scheme. The Council has an EV pool car.
Thanet	The council offers a car scheme via Tusker which offers EVs and hybrid cars. Currently 53.84% users have an EV (7 people), and 38.46% of users have a hybrid (5).
Tonbridge & Malling	<i>No progress against this action in 2025, however opportunities to support sustainable staff travel and options for a car club are currently being explored.</i>
Tunbridge Wells	Exploring options for EV salary sacrifice scheme. Staff have dedicated car club accounts, allowing them to use the car club for business travel.

Table 5

Action 5.4: Explore and develop council-owned fleet efficiency options that optimises costs, involving a mix of technologies.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Local authorities are at varying stages of progressing fleet efficiency, with several councils undertaking feasibility work, trialling EVs, or adopting lower-carbon fuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which has already delivered measurable savings in places like Gravesham, where 100% of the fleet is already running on HVO (totalling a 25.7 tCO₂e reduction).

Others are exploring solar-powered depot infrastructure, electric fleet transition planning, or phased replacement of older vehicles. Heavy-vehicle decarbonisation remains a shared challenge due to high costs and technological constraints, and some authorities have yet to initiate activity. Overall, the region is laying important groundwork, with growing momentum toward a more efficient, lower-emission fleet network in the coming years. Some significant achievements have been highlighted below.

[Dartford](#)

- Future waste contract requires all vehicles to meet Euro 6 standards.
- Some vehicles in the fleet will be electric, and others capable of running on HVO.
- Further fleet decarbonisation options are under exploration.

[Dover](#)

- Purchased two hybrid vans for the Assets team.
- A full fleet review planned for 2026–2027, including options for converting the waste fleet from diesel to HVO.

Folkestone & Hythe

- Completed early feasibility work on solar PV, battery storage, and EV charging at the Hawkinge Depot (59 kWp system assessed).
- Exploring renewal of a depot charging scheme subsidy (up to 75% capital cost funded).
- Developing an electric fleet transition framework for phased electrification, based on detailed demand modelling.

Gravesham

- Fleet transitioned from diesel to 100% HVO fuel as of April 2025.
- Achieved 25.7 tCO₂e reduction between 2023/24 and 2024/25, with full impact to be realised in 2025/26.

Kent County Council

- Two additional dual EV chargers installed. Totals to 26 EV charging bays across KCC sites (available to staff and the public).
- Conducted research with fleet-using service teams to map current fleet usage, start/finish locations, and existing EVs.
- Completed site visits with two charge point operators to assess feasibility and costs of future EV charging infrastructure.
- Exploring options for home-charging and roaming charge cards.

Maidstone

- Continuing to decarbonise their fleet, with additional electric vehicles purchased in 2025. See more information on Maidstone Borough Council's [website](#).

Medway

- Five EVs within the council's small vehicle fleet (acquired 2023–2024), but no additional EVs added in 2025.
- Procured 46 new Refuse Collection Vehicles in 2025, Euro 6 diesel but equipped with solar-powered electrical ancillaries.

Sevenoaks

- Ongoing Fleet Replacement Programme—replacing older vehicles with “cleanest available” within class.
- Small fleet (environmental enforcement, civil enforcement, animal warden) already fully electric.
- 20% of total 104-vehicle fleet replaced with low-carbon alternatives.
- July 2025 approval for purchase of 21 new low-carbon waste and recycling vehicles.

Swale

- 71% of fleet switched to electric vehicles.
- Staff EV pool car available for business use.

Thanet

- In September 2025, all vehicles in the fleet (113 in total) were moved to HVO fuel, 41 of these are Heavy Goods Vehicles. This reflects a reduction of 1,320 tonnes of carbon per year.

- Small fleet of EVs within the Open Spaces Team and the Port of Ramsgate.

Tonbridge & Malling

- Fleet transition underway with three electric vehicles now in use.
- Exploring HVO use for waste fleet.

Tunbridge Wells

- Around 20% of the fleet is electric and another 20% hybrid.
- Exploring HVO use for waste fleet through recommissioning process.
- Working with KCC Transport Innovations Team on electrifying the existing car-club fleet using Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.

Various local authorities note that transitioning fleet to EVs was financially unviable due to high cost, lack of charging infrastructure and long delivery times.

Action 5.5: Develop a shared EV charge point master plan for Kent and Medway.

PROGRESS: This action will be addressed in 2026/27 through other workstreams such as the Kent and Medway Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) (see Action 6.1).

Renewable Energy Generation

Action 6.1: Undertake Local Area Energy Planning for Kent and Medway that focuses on all existing and emerging technologies.

PROGRESS: Ongoing

Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) is at early stages, with most authorities expecting progress in 2026. KCC is facilitating collaborative work to develop a county-wide LAEP through a Task and Finish group with representatives from most local authorities' climate and planning teams, as well as external stakeholders.

Ashford Borough Council has already completed a LAEP for the Ashford area and are contributing to the Kent and Medway LAEP as mentors to the Task and Finish group.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council are proactively mapping local energy data and contributing to collaborative work with other East Kent local authorities.

Action 6.2: Develop a strategy for renewable energy generation and storage across Kent and Medway.

PROGRESS: Various local authorities are directly working with external stakeholders to explore renewable energy generation opportunities. This will also feed into the regional LAEP.

Green Infrastructure & Adaptation

Action 7.1: Support opportunities and ongoing delivery of nature-based solutions within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

PROGRESS: On Track

The Kent Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was officially launched and published in November 2025, with the support, engagement and collaboration of a wide range of stakeholders, including many of the Kent and Medway local authorities.

KCC secured £305k from the Environment Agency and delivered a flood alleviation scheme in Snipeshill, Sittingbourne. The project provides benefit to aquifer recharge as well as better protecting 11 properties from internal flood risk and removing water from the highway, improving safety and management of the road network. The project included wildflower planting, bulb planting and additional trees on site adding to the environmental quality of the previous amenity grassland site.

Other measures and initiatives led by districts and boroughs include:

- **Ashford** has initiated work for an Ashford Borough Species Scoping Study, to provide an evidence base to steer biodiversity enhancement strategically, complementing the LNRS. They are also undertaking open spaces audits to identify opportunities and barriers for biodiversity enhancements. Some actions already underway in parks include pro-pollinator planting approaches, tree planting with community involvement, pond and meadow creation, engagement and education through signage and interpretation.
- **Canterbury** is exploring nature-based solutions along the Wantsum Channel linked to water provision, biodiversity and agriculture. The authority sought external funding in February 2026. Working with RSPB, Kent Wildlife Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and FC to support Wilder Blean ambitions. Completed draft of Canterbury district biodiversity plan - a nature recovery strategy with consultation finishing in May 2026.
- **Dartford**'s award-winning [Lower Darent Riverside Strategy](#), recognised with two Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) awards for Planning Excellence Awards in 2025, demonstrates how nature-based placemaking can deliver environmental, social and economic benefits while managing climate-driven flood risk. Across the borough, this approach is supported by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and includes widespread habitat enhancement through wildflower meadows, tree planting, pollination corridors and regenerative planting schemes. The Council has regenerated 27 parks, improved habitats for wildlife, and expanded community engagement through initiatives such as Wildflower and Bat Walks, community orchards, and new allotment spaces, creating greener, healthier public spaces for residents while strengthening biodiversity resilience.
- **Dover** District's [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) focuses on six key outcomes, including "protected and restored nature", "greater resilience to climate change", "sustainable water management", "improved health and wellbeing for all", "sustainable places" and "values

healthy landscapes”. These outcomes highlight how nature-based solutions and green infrastructure can have significant co-benefits for the residents and visitors of the area.

- **Gravesham Borough Council** has made strong progress on waste management, biodiversity and green infrastructure, managing over 95% of green waste through composting, mulching and biomass while supporting local soil improvement initiatives. It has embedded Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) into policy and estate management following the adoption of its [Biodiversity Strategy](#) in 2025, using sites such as Hazell’s Farm to pilot best practice and position itself as an early adopter. Alongside this, the council is enhancing green infrastructure through community-led projects, protection of veteran trees, town-centre greening, and a commitment to plant three trees for every one removed. To date, 5,322 whips and 23 standard trees have been planted, demonstrating a sustained commitment to biodiversity, community engagement and long-term environmental resilience.
- **Maidstone Borough Council** demonstrated strong biodiversity progress through visible, place-based delivery and policy leadership. Key achievements included the expansion of habitat creation schemes such as fast forests and food forests, alongside new ponds and habitat improvements at sites including Buckland Hill, Mallards Way, Mote Park, and Whatman Park. Significant restoration and rewilding work was delivered at Penenden Heath, Clare Park, Hayle Park, Fant, Spot Lane, Weaving Heath, Wents Wood, and Five Acre Wood, while Allington Millennium Green was designated as a Local Nature Reserve. Biodiversity enhancements such as hibernacula (e.g. at Mote Park and Square Hill) and nest boxes (e.g. Trinity Park and Brenchley Gardens) were also implemented. These site-based improvements were supported by strengthened ecological land management practices, including reduced pesticide use and conservation mowing. In parallel, the council advanced governance through implementation of its 20% Biodiversity Net Gain policy, approval of early Biodiversity Gain Plans, and investment in monitoring systems, complemented by public-facing initiatives like green infrastructure installations. Together, these actions reinforce Maidstone’s position as a leading authority in biodiversity delivery. **For more information:** [Maidstone Borough Council's Statutory Biodiversity Report \(2021 - 2026\)](#)
- **Medway Council** has progressed a range of nature, trees and community initiatives, including developing plans to seek Local Nature Reserve status for Horsted Valley, expanding protected landscapes through the new Ranscombe Farm National Nature Reserve, and advancing the creation of a new community parkland at Deangate Ridge. Work has also progressed on a draft River Strategy, new allotments, and large-scale tree planting at Deangate Country Park involving around 100 volunteers. Alongside this, community-led projects such as the Friends of Cozenton Park Tree Nursery are strengthening local engagement, biodiversity and canopy cover, supported by council teams and external funding.

- **Sevenoaks** has strengthened its approach to biodiversity net gain (BNG) and taken an innovative approach by entering into a legal agreement with a local landowner to establish a local BNG site, supporting the retention of off-site net gain within the district. It has also become a partner in the Darent Valley Partnership, creating opportunities to engage with emerging carbon capture markets. These actions align with the emerging Sevenoaks Local Plan policy requiring BNG, encouraging exempt developments to deliver net gain, prioritising local offsetting, and supporting delivery of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Alongside this, sustained woodland and countryside management has delivered positive ecological outcomes through coppicing, thinning and site restoration, with evidence of strong regeneration and growing biodiversity. Tree and planning controls have been consistently applied to mitigate loss, improve enforcement and protect green infrastructure, including robust safeguards for ancient and veteran woodland informed by GIS mapping and national policy. This coordinated approach has strengthened decision-making, transparency and long-term protection of the district's natural assets.
- **Swale** have appointed consultants to undertake a study into potential sites for habitat banking in Swale. 14 sites are being reviewed as part of this study, and this work has been funded by DEFRA's Biodiversity Net Gain grant. The council has been the local authority partner in the Wilder Carbon Project, which has overseen the restoration of coastal grazing saltmarsh in Conyer (22 acres of saltmarsh restored). Works were completed in 2025, and monitoring is now underway to understand how the restoration has impacted on biodiversity.
- **Thanet** is due to adopt its Biodiversity Strategy by the end of the year. This strategy establishes a clear framework for nature recovery in the district and aims to: implement and enforce Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in all applicable developments; establish independent habitat banks across the district; develop sustainable land management practices across council owned green spaces; enhance habitat connectivity; engage stakeholders and local communities to promote biodiversity conservation; and monitor and report on biodiversity progress. The authority has also worked across departments to ensure a coordinated implementation of its Biodiversity Duty. This includes but is not limited to: expanding native plant areas and corridors; increasing street waste recycling; introducing biodiversity maintenance practices across council owned sites; and integrating biodiversity considerations into all policies.
- **Tonbridge and Malling** commissioned a BNG Feasibility Study to assess opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement on Council-owned land, identifying several potential sites for future habitat banking and nature recovery. An ongoing tree planting programme ensures that at least 1,000 trees and whips are planted annually on Council-owned land. Biodiversity has also been further enhanced through the identification of additional Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) sites.
- **Tunbridge Wells** has focused heavily on tree planting. See data in the next section.

Action 7.2: Continue to deliver Kent Plan Tree for 1.5 million new trees in Kent and Medway, reporting on progress.

PROGRESS: On Track

Kent Plan Tree team (KCC) continue their Elm Heritage Kent Project to support rare species. Tree planting includes fruit trees, disease resistant elm trees, native hedgerows, traditional tree planting and Miyawaki miniature woodlands. The team have engaged with the community through tree planting and events (Scouts, schools, residents, stall holder at ploughing matches, NHS fruit trees in community garden), as well as adding biodiversity to urban areas e.g Swalecliffe Rec. Supporting Local Tree nurseries.

Since 2020 and up to 2024/2025 376294 trees have been delivered in Kent and Medway. This work has mainly been funded by:

- Trees outside of woodland (Tree Council, DEFRA): £40,000
- Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund: £8,000
- Other grants associated with tree planting received by other KCC teams

Quantitative data for districts and boroughs:

Borough / District	Number of trees planted
Ashford	603 trees planted
Canterbury	No data provided
Dartford	2,537 trees planted
Dover	No data provided
Folkestone & Hythe	0 – no standalone tree planting projects delivered by the council
Gravesham	5,322 whips and 23 standard trees
Maidstone	9,370 trees planted
Medway	3,600 tree plugs
Swale	5,700 whips and 170 standard trees
Thanet	6,500 whips and 200 standard trees
Tonbridge & Malling	2,426 mixed native trees and whips
Tunbridge Wells	~7,000 trees planted

Table 6

Action 7.3: Develop a Kent and Medway Adaptation Plan.

PROGRESS: Work will commence in the second half of 2026.

Supporting Businesses

Action 8.1: Work with supply chains to enhance understanding of sustainable opportunities, particularly business resilience and economic growth. Signpost to local solutions and training.

PROGRESS: On Track / Ongoing

Across Kent and Medway, activity under this action shows a varied but steadily developing picture of supply-chain-focused sustainability support. KCC delivered accredited environmental training, convening large-scale stakeholder sessions and driving wider engagement through youth-focused circular-economy initiatives.

Several districts (including Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) used communication channels, business events and updated procurement practices to promote sustainable operations within local supply chains. Others, such as Ashford and Dover, focused on relationship-building or embedding sustainability in procurement processes, while some districts reported limited or emerging work. Collectively, the activity demonstrates increasing momentum toward helping organisations understand and integrate sustainable practices into their operations and supply chains.

Below is a snapshot of what some local authorities are working on regarding this action.

Ashford

- Relationship building with a local college.
- Internal skills development (retrofit assessor training identified).

Dartford

- 10 SMEs supported under “Low Carbon for Business” (grant + advice).
- Strong signposting via sustainability webpages.
- Procurement team collaboration to include sustainability.

Dover

- Sustainability embedded in procurement strategy.

Gravesham

- Signposting via monthly business newsletter (630 subscribers).
- Dedicated online sustainability resources for businesses.
- Support for major circular economy project: Britannia Refied Materials copper recycling facility.
- Engagement through Lower Thames Crossing and Industry4Council initiatives.

Kent County Council

- Continued Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) Environmental training. 67 learners trained.
- Around 70 stakeholders engaged via United Circles.
- Systems mapping workshops (REGENYSYS) with 30+ organisations.
- Large-scale youth engagement through ‘eWaste Warriors’ (21,165 students).

Maidstone

- Continued engagement with businesses and residents through newsletters and business newsletters, repair cafes, and plastic free community.

Medway

- Two major green business events (220+ attendees).
- Active business engagement through newsletters to more than 2,000 businesses.
- Sustainability surveys conducted to understand business needs.
- Strong business-facing engagement and signposting.

Sevenoaks

- General business engagement on climate action through business e-bulletins.
- In partnership with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Mid Kent College, SDC offered a package of fully funded green retrofit training courses. These were designed to help local residents and businesses gain accredited skills in the fast-growing retrofit and sustainable

construction sector. The initiative was part of a wider push to support the local workforce, respond to net-zero requirements, and help businesses prepare for increasing demand for retrofit services. The programme offered a suite of accredited qualifications, ranging from introductory to advanced levels.

Swale

- Waste contractor delivering NEET skills programme.
- Contractor-led community repair initiatives and electrical waste collection.

Thanet

- Developing an Environmental Questionnaire for TDC suppliers/procurement to understand where suppliers need support on their own low carbon/net zero journey.
- Home energy team engages with businesses to signpost to grants.
- Tourism team has a dedicated [“Green Tourism Toolkit”](#).
- As part of Thanet’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund, “Grow in Thanet” Green Business Networking Event was delivered to develop partnerships across businesses.
- Plastic Free Margate Cup – UKSPF helped fund the purchase of reusable Margate cups for businesses that wanted to participate in the scheme but could not afford investment in cups.
- Carbon Literacy training delivered to community leaders which included some local businesses.

Tonbridge & Malling

- Ongoing promotion of sustainability training via business e-bulletin (850 subscribers).

Tunbridge Wells

- Carbon literacy support for local businesses (12 accredited).
- Funding (£2.5k) for CIC Amplifi to help businesses adopt sustainable practices.
- Updated carbon calculator and signposting to local support.

Action 8.2: Work with higher energy-consuming businesses and clusters to ensure low-emissions solutions. Explore renewable energy, heat and resource-sharing within growth plans, by including this in the Kent and Medway Economic Framework.

PROGRESS: Ongoing / On Track

This is a Kent County Council action, with input from Swale and other external partners as outlined below.

Two major externally funded projects have been completed to support industrial decarbonisation across Kent and the wider region. The [Industrial Clusters project](#), delivered with the Greater South East Net Zero Hub, mapped all industrial estates, business parks and clusters and developed a practical decarbonisation tool to support emissions reduction and sustainable growth. In parallel, the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans (LIDP), funded by Innovate UK and led by the University of Kent with support from KCC, focused specifically on the Kemsley Industrial Cluster near Sittingbourne.

The Kemsley cluster, which includes power generation, manufacturing, logistics, recycling and waste facilities, developed a joint carbon reduction strategy based on a detailed analysis of its unique emissions profile, split broadly between biogenic and fossil carbon. The work assessed feasible decarbonisation technologies to support a pathway to net zero before 2050, while helping businesses understand shared resource demands and opportunities for collaboration.

Together, these projects have produced a replicable model for industrial symbiosis that is now being used as a template for other industrial and commercial clusters across the UK. The lessons learned are expected to inform the future work of United Circles and support emerging circular economy and community co-benefits, while aligning with the Kent and Medway Economic Framework and ensuring energy and decarbonisation are embedded within local growth planning.

Action 8.3: *Support SMEs to improve energy efficiency in premises to reduce emissions by offering financial assistance or signposting to local or other solutions.*

PROGRESS: Ongoing / On track

Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under this action shows strong delivery in several districts, particularly where grant programmes and advisory schemes were in place. KCC, Dartford, Medway, Swale, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells all delivered financial support or technical audits that enabled SMEs to install energy-saving technologies, reduce operational costs and lower carbon emissions. In some areas, such as Ashford, Dover, and Folkestone & Hythe, SME support is available through broader grant programmes. Overall, the action has enabled a wide range of businesses to access funding, training and advice, and has contributed to measurable carbon savings and improved energy performance across the SME sector. Some of the actions taken on district levels can be seen below:

Ashford

Ashford Borough Council supported 14 businesses in 2025, with £143,990 worth of grants. These interventions ranged from solar panel installations to fabric measures and installation of LED lighting. In total 60,704.32kg of Co2e were saved in this round, alongside reducing running costs for the SMEs supported.

Dartford

Ten SMEs received a £5k grant each (total of £50k from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund). All recipients introduced new energy-saving measures (LED upgrades, heat pumps, solar PV, smart controls, etc.) with a total of 8.93 tCO2e savings estimated.

Dover

Local businesses were supported through national programmes (*not quantified*).

Folkestone & Hythe

Broad eligibility added to local Green Grant Scheme (£210k available). Multiple SME projects in delivery stages.

Gravesham

Focused on business engagement:

- Support for skills, industry decarbonisation, and inward investment (e.g. copper recycling plant).
- The Gravesham Business Awards introduced an [Environmental Sustainability](#) Award for the first time in November 2025, with a total of 27 applications. The main criteria for this award were to showcase how businesses in the borough are reducing their environmental footprint and are committing to sustainability within their operations. The winner for the environmental category was MDCV UK (Silverhand Estate, Luddesdown).

Kent County Council

“Growing Green” programme:

- 44 organisations supported with ISEP accredited sustainability training.
- 32 grant-funded projects (waste reduction, resource sharing, renewables, energy saving). £300k “[Strength in Places](#)” funding.

Medway

Offered a Green Grant scheme of up to £5k. Six grants awarded (£20k total). 4 Net Zero Audits completed for local SMEs. Examples include voltage regulators, infrared heating, LED upgrades, double glazing upgrades. Monthly business newsletter (2,000+ businesses). Solar Together SME participation.

Sevenoaks

The Council continues to deliver the [Economic Development Strategy](#) and in particular, engage and work with local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions resulting from commercial operations. All grant schemes delivered with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) have assessment processes which include sustainability actively encouraging businesses to fund positive changes. West Kent Expo panel session included content on sustainability and other workshops highlighted digital advances which could support more efficient operations. There was good representation from businesses around carbon reduction and sustainability to ensure that businesses attending this event were able to access support in this area.

Swale

Ten organisations (SMEs and community organisations) received £68,676 in grants funded through the UKSPF. Throughout 2025 two grant streams were active: Community Infrastructure Grants (CIG) and the Rural Small Business Grants. Recipients included village halls, charities, sports clubs, and small businesses. Measures funded include solar PV installation, battery storage, energy-efficient refrigeration, heating systems upgrades and insulation.

Thanet

Signposting only.

Tonbridge & Malling

13 business grant projects completed via UKSPF. Green Retrofit Skills Programme delivered with MidKent College; six individuals trained in retrofit trades and 20 supported through pilot.

Tunbridge Wells

TWBC has delivered two rounds of its Business Decarbonisation Grant Scheme:

- Year 1: 10 organisations, £25k issued (2024/25 financial year)
- Year 2: 8 organisations, £21.5k issued (2025/26 financial year)

These schemes have supported 18 businesses and delivered measures including LED upgrades, removing gas heating, insulation and decarbonisation plans.

Communications, Training & Behaviour Change

Action 9.1: Maintain a communication network to ensure consistency of messages and facilitate joint working, including the development of shared resources for public sector staff engagement.

PROGRESS: On Track

Throughout 2025, climate change officers from all 14 authorities met monthly to maintain regular communication and aligned working where possible.

Kent County Council's engagement and behaviour change team updated the Climate Change e-learning module on Delta and shared SCORM files with the districts. Gravesham, Dartford and Canterbury are exploring adoption of this resource.

Action 9.2: Drive engagement and behaviour change through initiatives such as energy and water saving, active travel, climate-related health awareness.

PROGRESS: On Track

The districts reported a broad range of behaviour change and public engagement activity. Many authorities delivered ongoing community communications campaigns using social media, newsletters, events and targeted interventions to encourage sustainable travel, improved recycling habits, and more energy-efficient behaviours, amongst others.

Medway implemented one of the most extensive local engagement programmes with high-profile attendance at community events, a growing climate-action newsletter audience, and regular repair cafés and reuse initiatives. Dartford, Gravesham, Swale and Tunbridge Wells delivered strong community-facing activity, including high-engagement sustainability stalls, large volunteer programmes, tree-planting and litter-picking events, and support for local environmental projects through micro-grants. Other districts, including Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet, used targeted communications, behaviour-change studies, and active travel campaigns to shape local awareness and participation.

Across the county, engagement work continues to grow in both scale and visibility, helping residents understand and adopt more sustainable behaviours. Specific actions for each council can be seen below.

Ashford

The Local Authority's Warm Homes Healthy Futures programme delivers energy advice directly to some of Ashford's most vulnerable residents. Referrals come through from health professionals, where there is a chance that housing conditions and fuel poverty may be exacerbating health conditions. Telephone or face to face support is provided by an officer, who won a national award from National Energy Action and was commended in the Municipal Journal awards for her work slashing energy debt and supporting people make changes to how they use energy in their home and get on the right tariffs. Work is linked to the Eat Well, Spend Less roadshow programme in Ashford and where possible they signpost to the Warm Homes Local Grant, so making real changes to real lives.

Canterbury

Canterbury City Council commissioned a study which forms part of their transport strategy. From the recommendations in this report, a marketing and promotion campaign will be employed to help residents and visitors to consider transport mode switch. Various communications activities are raising awareness of the implications of poor indoor and outdoor air quality and encouraging people to switch from a car-based commute to cycling and walking, for example.

Dartford

Planet Dartford Green Grant Fund continues to support local organisations with 'green' projects in the Borough. Planet Dartford Stall at Dartford's Big Day Out and Ingress Park Family Fun Day reached over 300 local residents who enjoyed learning about sustainability and recycling, as well as learning about Dartford's Energy Efficiency schemes, Active Travel opportunities and Net Zero ambitions for the Council and the Borough.

Planet Dartford Green Grant Fund supported five local organisations with 'green' projects in the Borough.

Dartford Larder: social supermarket established to provide an affordable shopping experience, tackle food insecurity, and resolve food waste to create a stronger and better-connected community.

Dartford Borough Council partnered with KCC and the Dartford Healthy Living Centre to work with Dartford schools on the e-Waste Warrior Project where students were urged to donate, repair or recycle their electricals.

Dover

Climate and Nature Forum - Energy Efficiency packs and Thermal Camera project

Folkestone & Hythe

Folkestone & Hythe District Council works with grassroots organisation Sustainable Futures Forum. Through this forum, events attracted strong attendance with 355 collaboration matches formed in one event alone. Overall high level of community participation was noted across multiple events.

Gravesham

Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) continued to promote initiatives intended to support residents in making changes, including 'electrical, commercial, and food waste recycling' and

'Green World Recycling Limited' which recycles textiles, shoes, and clothes. Other schemes like 'Gravesham repair cafe', 'Street Champions', active travel, free bike check-up & repairs and more were also promoted throughout the year through social media platforms and newsletters.

The 'Street Champions' scheme attracted 830 active volunteers across the borough who pledged to 'adopt' 428 streets, parks and alleyways. Between January & November 2025, the Street Champions have collected 4,341 sacks of litter (395 per month) and have been on 2,310 litter picks (210 per month).

GBC is collaborating with community members, groups, businesses, and stakeholders to improve the perception of Gravesham as a desirable place to live, work, visit, and invest. In the first 15 months of the 'Cleaner, Safer Streets' campaign, 464 sacks of litter were collected, and 120 fly-tipped items were removed. The number of Street Champions has risen by 165 in 2025, and campaign signage has been displayed in 57 locations throughout the borough.

Kent County Council

The Greener Kent Facebook page reached more than 2 million content views, 6,400+ link clicks and had a strong overall public reach.

The Feed Your Foodie campaign primarily aimed to increase use of the weekly food waste collection and reduce the food that goes into general waste. The Christmas Feed Your Foodie campaign ran throughout December 2025 and January 2026 via organic social media posts and a number of advertising platforms (Meta, Google, Spotify, Radio and Buses). 50 posts of organic content were published in total across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, resulting in 117,781 total impressions. Facebook performed the best, receiving 104,954 impressions and 2,945 clicks. Paid ads from Google, Meta and Snapchat brought in an additional 2,175,400 impressions and 24,468 clicks in total. Influencer content was utilized via influencer marketing platform Hypefy, enabling 26.9k reach and 33.5k impressions. The engagement rate was higher with the messaging coming from influencers, with 807 likes and 251 comments in total, and the responses were overwhelmingly positive in tone. These fun, engaging and disruptive communications benefited from co-production with the district and borough councils, receiving positive feedback from them and helping to produce tangible outcomes, alongside the successful stickering campaign. An extra 2,000 tonnes of food waste was recycled since September compared with the previous year - a 22% increase.

Maidstone

Maidstone Borough Council delivered 44 events for residents in the borough including the annual Eco Hub, recycling and waste events, composting workshops, wildlife walks and school visits.

Medway

Medway Council's refreshed Climate Change Action Plan (2025 – 2028) places Knowledge and Empowerment at its core, and this priority has driven a wide range of community-focused engagement and behaviour-change activity throughout the year. The Climate Response Team continued to amplify both local initiatives and national campaigns through active social-media promotion, including #SmallChanges, water-saving messages, active-travel challenges, local repair café dates, free bus travel incentives, and energy-saving advice. Engagement extended beyond digital channels through creative and place-based activities such as the *A Park for Life*

workshops, which explored residents' relationships with greenspaces in a changing climate, and through continued participation in schemes like the annual tree giveaway. Further community impact was achieved through support for councillors developing Climate Action Ward Improvement Plans, and through ongoing recycling initiatives, including small electricals collections and the return of community equipment via Medway Integrated Community Equipment Services. Creative Medway also continued to champion the Kent and Medway Environmental and Sustainability Pledge.

Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks' [Better Together Hub](#) has seen an increase in memberships from partners offering a number of climate change projects as well as new community groups/projects being set up. This has included a litter picking group being set up over the summer and autumn months. SDC also promoted the Community Carbon Calculator at their Summer 2025 Family Fun Days and have taken this tool to a number of community events including VE Day, community days and Silver Sundays.

Continued strong communication through quarterly 'In Shape' magazine and regular social media posts. Active travel routes were launched in 2025 (Sevenoaks East-West) with more than 100 people in attendance.

Swale

Swale Borough Council has a strong social media presence, with 400,434 views on 39 social media posts related to the Climate and Ecological Emergency. The posts relate to events that the Council organised including litter picks, tree planting, bike events and recycling initiatives.

Thanet

Thanet's Home Energy team engages with residents and the public regarding energy advisory services and the Environmental Protection team engages with the public regarding the Thanet LCWIP and air quality consultation. Thanet District Council regularly shares social media posts regarding environmental initiatives such as their switch to HVO vehicles. UK Shared Prosperity Funding was offered to POW Thanet to host and run an Environmental Working group Project which enables a community climate action project to run. Carbon Literacy training will soon open to all TDC staff.

Tonbridge & Malling

Environmental communications delivered throughout the year via campaigns, events, press releases, and social media. Strong engagement achieved through food waste campaigns.

Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) has awarded £11.1k to 11 local organisations through their Community Climate Micro Grant Scheme which supports a wide range of environmental projects including litter picking, rainwater harvesting, tree planting, community fridge, recycling, local climate and nature fair, woodland restoration and allotment improvements. TWBC regularly engages with communities via social media posts and surveys.

Action 9.3: *Investigate training, skills and education needs for climate awareness for Kent & Medway (including schools and residents).*

PROGRESS: On track

Councils have reported positive progress on this action and there is evidence of strengthening climate-related skills and awareness across districts, with most authorities expanding their training offers for schools, businesses, community groups and staff. KCC led very comprehensive programmes, delivering Carbon Literacy training, school-focused initiatives such as the Greener Kent Schools (four webinars, direct officer support and online resources to support schools with their Climate Action Plans) and a wide range of workshops and learning opportunities to a wide range of stakeholders, such as home retrofit information sessions for residents in partnership with an impartial subject matter expert.

Medway has addressed this action through public surveys to inform future engagement, targeted outreach with the voluntary sector and a range of learning support including school assemblies and training sessions. Established schools and early years award programmes include sustainability criteria, specifically the Medway Healthy Early Years (HEY) Award criteria were updated to embed climate action and sustainability, and two climate training sessions were delivered to 27 early years practitioners across 22 settings.

Swale Borough Council made significant steps by making Carbon Literacy training available in secondary schools, with six school staff members and 255 students having completed or currently undertaking training. Work is underway to roll out the training in other secondaries and colleges across the borough.

Other districts, including Dartford, Thanet, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells, introduced or enhanced climate training through e-learning modules, councillor and officer sessions, youth repair skills programmes and community education initiatives.

The e-Waste Warriors project brought together clusters of schools across Kent, including Maidstone, Dartford, Tonbridge & Malling, Dover, Thanet and Swale. Each cluster began with an assembly introducing pupils to e-waste, recycling, repair and reuse. Schools received two pink bring-bank bins (one for recycling and one for repair/donation) for four weeks, along with several Team Repair kits that enabled Year 5 classes and above to run hands-on workshops repairing retro-style games consoles.

Each cluster also hosted a promoted Repair Event in collaboration with a local Repair Café.

Overall, the project involved more than 20,000 pupils, trained over 3,500 students using the Team Repair kits, and recovered approximately five tonnes of electrical waste for recycling.