

North East Lincolnshire Council

Our Green Future

North East Lincolnshire has a diverse heritage and environment, which includes our protected landscapes, unique blow well ponds and ancient woodlands. The rich and fertile environment and its close connection to the Humber Estuary has enabled the economic and industrial development of the area, leading to economic prosperity in the region over the years.



Being close to the estuary has had many positive impacts, but local industries have high levels of emissions which contribute to climate change. The region has the largest group of energy-intensive industries, emitting more carbon dioxide than anywhere else in the UK and is facing a growing threat from climate change with the second highest flood risk in the country.



Now the journey to adapt to a greener industrial future is gaining momentum; we have become a central place for developing the UK's world-leading offshore wind sector and plans for industrial decarbonisation. The Covid-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of good quality green space for the health of our residents and has revitalised the interest in local nature and wildlife.



Our Vision for a Green Future

Our four main plans for our Green Future

Zero Carbon
Roadmap

Natural
Assets Plan

Economic
Strategy

Waste
Strategy



Our vision is to continue the enrichment of our natural environment and respond to climate change by leading, inspiring, and enabling action. This will mean tackling the climate emergency, protecting and enhancing our natural assets, managing resources sustainably, reducing waste and growing our green economy. We will enhance the public health benefits from our natural environment.

We want North East Lincolnshire to be:

- ✓ A thriving low carbon economy powered by sustainable energy
- ✓ A circular economy, where businesses and residents reject the throw-away society, reducing, re-using and recycling
- ✓ A place where residents live in energy efficient, healthy homes and where it is enjoyable, accessible, and affordable for everyone to travel sustainably every day
- ✓ A nature rich place, where wildlife abounds, and everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives



Economic Strategy

While we encourage and attain economic growth, it is equally important that we consider the climate impact and the need to get carbon emissions under control.

One of the four cornerstones of our economic strategy is maximising low carbon and healthy initiatives in industry and in our Place.

These are the outcomes we want to achieve:

- Transition of business and industry towards a carbon neutral and sustainable future
- Visual renewable energy initiatives in our town centres
- An increase in research and development activities, including 5G infrastructure to support innovation testing
- The creation of a green energy hub in Grimsby Town Centre

Increase percentage of local work force in green jobs.



Zero Carbon Roadmap

To become a carbon neutral organisation we will:

- Place environmental impact at heart of purchasing
- Transition our fleet to sustainable fuels
- Have energy efficient street lighting
- Have energy efficient public buildings
- Encourage staff behaviour change and climate-conscious decision-making

To support a carbon neutral North East Lincolnshire we will:

- Enable businesses to improve efficiency of commercial buildings
- Facilitate green transport through network investment and policy change
- Enable sustainable housing both new and old
- Support our partners in achieving industrial decarbonisation
- Encourage community engagement and sustainability actions

Achieve net zero carbon emissions by the Council by 2040

Support achieving net zero carbon emissions in our Borough by 2050



Waste Strategy

- Ensure efficient and reliable collections.
- Collect a wider range of materials from residents for recycling.
- Encourage residents to reduce waste and recycle more, in line with the circular economy model.
- Reduce the emissions from the disposal, treatment and transport of waste.
- Avoid sending waste to landfill wherever possible and use residual waste to generate energy
- Encourage learning about sustainable waste management and responsible behaviours.

65% recycling by 2035 (up from 35% in 2019)
 Less than 10% waste to Landfill by 2035 (NELC is currently achieving this)
 Separate Food Waste Collections by 2025



Natural Assets Plan

This plan sets out eight ways we want make improvements to our Place:

- Plan for future land use to support carbon reduction and nature
- Increase biodiversity through implementing national schemes and our own land management choices
- Improve air quality
- Build resilience to flood risk and other climate impacts
- Understand and celebrate our natural heritage with our community
- Increase tree cover and sustainable tree management
- Ensure access for all residents to good quality green space
- Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of being in natural environments

10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all developments from November 2023
 Increase woodland cover from a baseline of 10.5% (2021)

This is how we will make our vision real

Our role

We recognise that we are part of a larger system of change and need to work with others to achieve a sustainable future for our place. With limited resources, we must prioritise our actions to have the greatest impact. We will do this by considering our strengths as an organisation and sphere of influence, to guide where our resources are most effective.

Inspire: Assisting others to achieve their goals

Enable: Strong influence as a local policy maker and facilitator

Lead: Direct opportunity to reduce our environmental impact

Making it happen

The green agenda is not a single topic. It will require changes across the organisation and green considerations in every project we manage or support, and across our ways of making decisions.

Our main themes will be accompanied by delivery plans, plotting our required actions and resources over the next 20 years to achieve the targets we set and those set for us nationally.

With good forward planning and by having projects ready, we are hopeful that substantial resources can be secured through grant funding.

It is likely we will still require some additional capital investment to ensure we reduce our own carbon impact, such as green fleet and improvements to our buildings.

We will hold an Environment Board to provide oversight and governance, with regular reports back to the council's leadership team on progress.