

CABINET

DATE	12 th March 2025
REPORT OF	Councillor Henry Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Our Green Future Annual Report
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 03/25/01

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

This report provides an annual update on North East Lincolnshire Council’s strategic environmental plans which are focussed in three key areas: -

- Waste Management Strategy
- Carbon Roadmap
- Natural Asset Plan

The Waste Management Strategy supports the Council’s outcomes for Sustainable Communities, promoting and encouraging a recycling culture, in line with the circular economy model. It also contributes to its priorities of Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities; by ensuring we have a robust Waste Management Strategy and a fit for purpose, cost effective and efficient waste collection service to all wards in the borough that aligns with national waste strategy.

The Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan support the council’s outcomes for Investing in Our Future and Economic Recovery and Growth, by ensuring that our residents benefit from a green economy and a high-quality environment; enjoy good health and wellbeing and live in a safe environment, where they can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Environment Board which meets quarterly monitors our achievements and progress throughout the year. This annual report provides a strategic update on our workstream priorities for the 2024 calendar year in relation to the following three strategies:

- Waste Management Strategy (2020)

- Carbon Roadmap (2021)
- Natural Assets Plan (2021)

Since setting out our ambition in 2020 to reduce the environmental impact caused by household waste, the authority has undertaken a full review of waste and recycling collection services. This has resulted in an improvement in recycling rates, reduction in miles travelled for disposal and a reduction in waste sent to landfill. Additional plans are in place to deliver further improvements in the quantity and quality of recycling.

Significant progress has been achieved against the Carbon Roadmap with an estimated decrease of 3,007 (tCO₂e) in 5 years saving, from our 2019 baseline. This estimate is based on the successful completion of decarbonisation targets outlined in the progress table of Appendix 2, all of which were scheduled as part of our original Roadmap.

Our target of becoming carbon net zero by 2030 is an ambitious one. Innovative approaches and carbon offsetting measures should facilitate a significant reduction of net carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from the 2024 estimated figure of 3,068 (tCO₂e) by 2030.

The accelerated 2030 approach will also deliver financial, environmental, and public health benefits and empower local business and communities to achieve their own carbon targets and climate initiatives.

There has been significant progress on workstreams within the Natural Assets Plan to enhance and protect our natural environment. Whilst legislative changes for Development Control, Environment and Housing provision are not yet forthcoming, preparatory work is taking place across the organisation with partners and agencies to achieve a sustainable future for our Place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Receives and notes the annual updates for each plan as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 and its contribution towards delivering net zero by 2030.

REASONS FOR DECISION

This report focusses on the three environmental strategies which alongside the Economic Strategy, together make up 'Our Green Future', as set out in the Council's Environmental Vision Statement. This update will support our aspirations for 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.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 On the 12th February 2020, Cabinet approved and adopted North East Lincolnshire Council's Waste Management Strategy 2020 to 2035. The Strategy included a commitment to improve recycling to reach government targets of 55% recycling by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The strategy also sets out the Council's ambition to move towards a circular economy, with increase in re-use, reduction in waste disposal and reduction in waste to landfill.
- 1.2 In 2019 a climate emergency was declared where North East Lincolnshire Council confirmed its ambition to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, while also bringing new jobs to the local area. This has now been revised to 2030.
- 1.3 On the 1st December 2021, Cabinet approved and adopted the following
 - North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon Roadmap and action plan;
 - North East Lincolnshire Council's Natural Assets Plan.
- 1.4 All three Cabinet decisions included a requirement to produce an annual report including updates for consideration by Cabinet and the appendices to this report provide that update.
- 1.5 The actions within the strategies have been prioritised as short, medium, and long term and as such, some actions have not yet commenced.

Waste Management Strategy

- 1.6 The Waste Management Strategy aims to rank this Council amongst the best in the country for using our resources sustainably, making changes that support local contractors, manufacturers, retailers and residents to produce less waste and recycle more.
- 1.7 The aspirations in the Strategy are as follows:
 - **Resilient:** We will ensure efficient and reliable collections of waste and recycling from all households, which are responsive to future changes in legislation and local needs.

- **Customer friendly:** We will provide a waste collection method, which is easy for households to use and encourages residents to recycle more.
- **Environmentally responsible:** We will ensure our arrangements for collection and disposal of waste are designed and operated in a way that reduce our environmental impact as far as practicable. We will aim to achieve reduction in emissions from disposal, treatment, and transport, but also from the production of the materials long before those materials are discarded as waste via waste reduction.
- **Education focused:** We will help and encourage learning about sustainable waste management by developing stronger relationships with schools and the community.
- **Collaborative:** We will work with neighbouring authorities and our business partners to explore better service delivery and contract management for waste disposal.
- **Responsible commissioners and effective contract managers:** We will maximise the use of and value from our current contract and plan for effective commissioning for the future.

Progress

- 1.8 There has been an overall reduction in domestic waste and an increase in recycling rates within the borough since 2020. This reduction is in line with the national strategy to minimise household waste and to create a circular economy and has been influenced by the councils new recycling offer.
- 1.9 We also continue to keep our waste to landfill rates below the 10% national target and for the first time, achieved four consecutive months of no waste to landfill at the end of 2024. Our continued work to increase the percentage of waste recycled, converting it to energy when it is not feasible and reducing waste to landfill shows our long-term commitment to achieving a circular economy across the borough.
- 1.10 In our 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that government would introduce legislation to mandate local authorities to provide a food waste collection to residents. In preparation the council introduced a weekly food waste collection pilot scheme in 5 locations. This was paused in June 2023 pending confirmation of future funding. Feedback on the pilot scheme was positive, with a reduction rate of waste in residual bins of 50 tonnes a month as a result. The scheme also provided valuable data in preparation for the mandatory food waste collections being implemented in England in April 2026.
- 1.11 Defra have announced that Local Authorities will be provided with new burdens funding for food waste collections. The council received £1.2M of upfront capital funding in January 2024 for vehicles and caddies. The value of revenue funding for operational costs is yet to be confirmed

- 1.12 A detailed report on progress can be found in appendix 1 to this report under the header NELC Council Waste Management Strategy Update.

Carbon Roadmap

- 1.13 In December 2022 it was resolved at Full Council to commit to

- Achieve net zero carbon impact by the Council and our assets by 2030.
- Reaffirm the commitment to engage with partners, businesses, and communities to achieve net zero carbon, across the borough as proximate as practically possible to the Council's own accelerated 2030 aspiration.
- Embark on an ambitious property rationalisation programme to deliver efficiency savings, reduce the carbon footprint, support new ways of working, drive footfall in Grimsby Town Centre and generate capital receipts which can be applied to support the wider transformation programme.

- 1.14 The council, supported by our regeneration partner EQUANS, previously carried out an in-depth review of current policies, procedures, and activities which identified our current carbon impact and wider emissions in the Borough. It set out an approach to identify opportunities to reduce our own carbon emissions as well as contribute to mitigation work and reduction of carbon emissions across North East Lincolnshire.

- 1.15 The Carbon Roadmap outlines the work areas required to reduce carbon emissions from our own activities and areas where we can enable and inspire others to reduce their own carbon emissions. The focus is on the following workstreams:

1. Low carbon estate (our buildings).
2. Low carbon fleet (our vehicles).
3. Low carbon street lighting.
4. Climate-conscious decision-making.
5. Climate-conscious purchasing (goods and services).
6. Climate conscious behaviours (of our staff and those who work for us).

The following 6 additional workstreams drive change and encourage stakeholders:

7. Climate-conscious community: by facilitating and encouraging community engagement and sustainability actions.
8. Low carbon commercial buildings: working as an enabler to ensure sufficient support is in place for businesses to increase sustainability.

9. Low carbon transport: through policy change, network investment and partnership working we want to enable a local transition to more sustainable travel.
10. Low carbon industry: by supporting our partners and industry in achieving industrial decarbonisation, including carbon capture and hydrogen economy.
11. Enable low carbon new homes-through our role as a policy maker and planning authority.
12. Climate-conscious improvements to older homes, by supporting our partners and residents to improve their homes to become more sustainable.

Progress

- 1.16 Progress has been made on each of the six workstreams required to reduce emissions from our own activities. This includes the delivery of phase one of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to decarbonise our estate and a successful application for the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) through Salix, for technical assessments for a further eight of our buildings to identify renewable technology opportunities. We have continued to convert our street lighting to LED and explored a range of options, included Sodium Lamps (SON) and specialist lighting, where LED is not suitable. Progress has also been made on those workstreams that seek to educate, change behaviours and support decision making to ensure that climate and the environmental impact is considered. This includes the development of a toolkit, to support the inclusion of environmental considerations in decision making. This will be further supported by a new e-learning procurement package, containing guidance on the environmental impact of goods, services and works procured. Climate champions from across all services are beginning to be identified, promoting and encouraging climate conscious behaviours within their teams.
- 1.17 Progress has also been made on the six workstreams that facilitate, encourage, and support others to reduce their carbon emissions. This includes a new Local Transport Plan and EV Charging Strategy. The creation of a new Net Zero Training Centre at CATCH. The launch of the Seafood Carbon Emissions Profiling Tool to support the seafood industry with their decarbonisation aims and the continued successful delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund, providing energy saving support for local business.
- 1.18 A detailed report on progress for each of these workstreams can be found in appendix 2 to this report under the header NELC Carbon Roadmap Update.
- 1.19 The focus for 2025 is to review the short-term outline plans in the Carbon Roadmap, with a view to progressing the medium-term plans for 2026-2030.

Natural Assets Plan

- 1.20 North East Lincolnshire is a place of rich, unique nature and heritage. As the global climate change crisis becomes more real to us, there is a recognition that the pressures that humans are putting on our natural environment exceeds the limits it can cope with. Significant change is required in how we live our lives and manage our business to ensure North East Lincolnshire remains a nature-rich place, where wildlife abounds, and to ensure everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives, with evidence of sustainable ecology, environment, and food systems.
- 1.21 Our Natural Assets Plan sets out the council's aspiration and strategic action plan for the next five years to protect and enhance our natural assets, drive local change, and encourage all stakeholders in the Borough to work together in achieving the government's target of biodiversity net gain, flood prevention, improved air and water quality and increased tree canopy cover.
- 1.22 Improvements to protect and enhance our environment are outlined in the following 8 workstreams:
1. Planning our future land use
 2. Managing our open spaces
 3. Biodiversity and special sites
 4. Trees and woodlands
 5. Water management
 6. Improving air quality
 7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing
 8. Education, involvement, and enjoyment

Progress

- 1.23 Progress has been made on our short to medium term goals for all eight workstreams. This includes a successful grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop and deliver a successful partnership project centred around protecting and enhancing Cleethorpes Saltmarsh. Continued efforts to 'green up our place' through community led tree planting projects, supported by the Forestry Commission. Works are continuing on the delivery of sustainable urban drainage (SUDS) across Grimsby and Immingham, with site investigations underway for a new Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project. There have also been a series workshops and engagement sessions on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- 1.24 A detailed report on progress for each of the above workstreams can be found in appendix 3 to this report under the header NELC Natural Assets Plan Update.

- 1.25 NELC's Natural Assets Plan is currently being reviewed, with a revised plan presented for approval in 2026. This will be supported by a review of the Council's Environment webpages, to improve user experience, promote the work that is being carried out across the whole green agenda and signpost users to external partner agencies and organisations.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 The Environment Act 2021 placed new statutory requirements on local authorities to protect and enhance their local environment. Our Green Future sets out the strategic direction to fulfil these requirements and aligns climate action with our other strategic aims such as our Economic Strategy, our Air Quality Strategy, and our Waste Management Strategy, to ensure consistency across all services.
- 2.2 There is the strategic risk of not meeting our targets, which will be controlled and managed through the corporate risk register.
- 2.3 The approach and progress towards net zero is influenced by a number of external factors. In delivering services we must ensure that our operational needs are considered against the available low carbon technological solutions and that any capital and revenue investment delivers an appropriate return on investment. The Council continues to identify innovative solutions and funding but cannot guarantee the future availability of external funding.
- 2.4 Our Equalities Impact Assessment has highlighted that we need to ensure information about climate change and carbon reduction is suitable for a wide range of audiences. We also need to be mindful that climate change is likely to impact unequally across our population. Issues relating to deprivation will be important to consider when assessing adaptations to climate change and introducing lower carbon solutions.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The option for the council to not be carbon neutral by 2030 has been considered, however this would unnecessarily delay improvements to the environment for the benefit of our residents.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The ongoing delivery of each of these strategies will support the council's relationships with individuals, communities and partner organisations and demonstrate our commitment to work together to meet our shared aims of a sustainable future.

- 4.2 Public consultation on the strategic aims and delivery focus has been completed and return an overwhelming support for local climate and environmental action.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Approval of the strategy supports the council's Financial Strategy by aligning resources to local priorities.
- 5.2 There will be capital and revenue implications associated with delivering this strategy with implementation requiring changes in working practices across the council. The financial impact will be considered in detail for each decision taken.
- 5.3 By setting out our strategic aspiration for environmental action, we will enhance our opportunities to secure grant assistance or other external funding to assist with environmental improvements, nature recovery, flood prevention, flood mitigation and biodiversity net gain.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Our environmental strategies aim to improve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Children and young people are especially concerned about our environment, and it is essential to engage with them on environmental matters. Our various workstreams will create opportunities to engage with children and young people.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The strategy underpins the council's environmental priorities by:

- Leading North East Lincolnshire towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure
- Working towards a low carbon North East Lincolnshire that is prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change.
- Recognising and realising the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality environment and protection of nature and wildlife.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The initial proposal for the three strategies and the annual review has been presented to Communities Scrutiny Panel.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation to receive and note annual updates. However as detailed within the financial considerations above, there will be financial implications arising from the delivery of the strategy. Financial implications will be considered as part of business case development and subject to the Council's usual decision-making framework.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications immediately arising as the report is one of update.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

The strategy set out in this report will impact on all wards in the Borough.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[NELC Waste Management Strategy](#)

[NELC Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)

[NELC Natural Assets Plan](#)

Vision for Our Green Future

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Kath Jickells, Assistant Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure North East Lincolnshire Council

Dee Hitter, Head of Environmental Sustainability
North East Lincolnshire Council

COUNCILLOR HENRY HUDSON

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NET ZERO

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 - North East Lincolnshire Council Waste Strategy Update

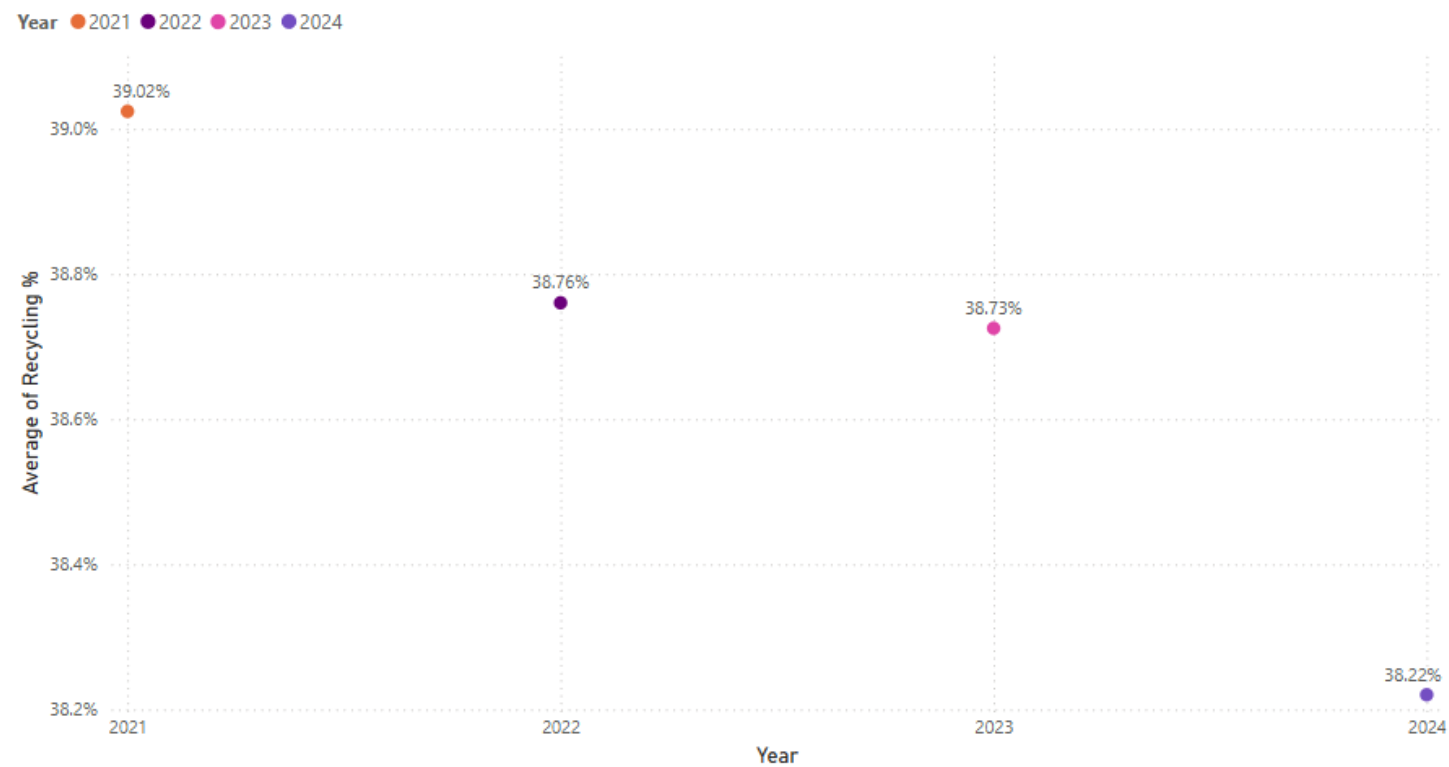
Residual Waste

Residual waste is the waste that residents do not segregate for recycling and in NEL it is used to produce energy.

Our residual waste during 2025 was 41,360.17 tonnes. This is 3,492.799 tonnes less than in 2021. An overall reduction in residual waste collected is in line with the national strategy to minimise waste produced by households and create a circular economy in England. This shows NELC's progress, in line with the national waste strategy, in reducing the overall volume of waste we collect and helping to move the borough towards a circular economy. Consistent communications since the publishing of the waste strategy have helped residents reduce their waste and manage it in an environmentally responsible way, and the council is committed to continuing this work, to reduce and minimise domestic waste across the borough wherever practicable and feasible to do so. Furthermore, the council has continued to ensure that all of our municipal waste is disposed of and managed within the U.K.

While there is a limit on what can be done to reduce the waste that people produce locally, we will continue to try and help residents reduce the amount of waste they produce where possible.

Recycling Rate

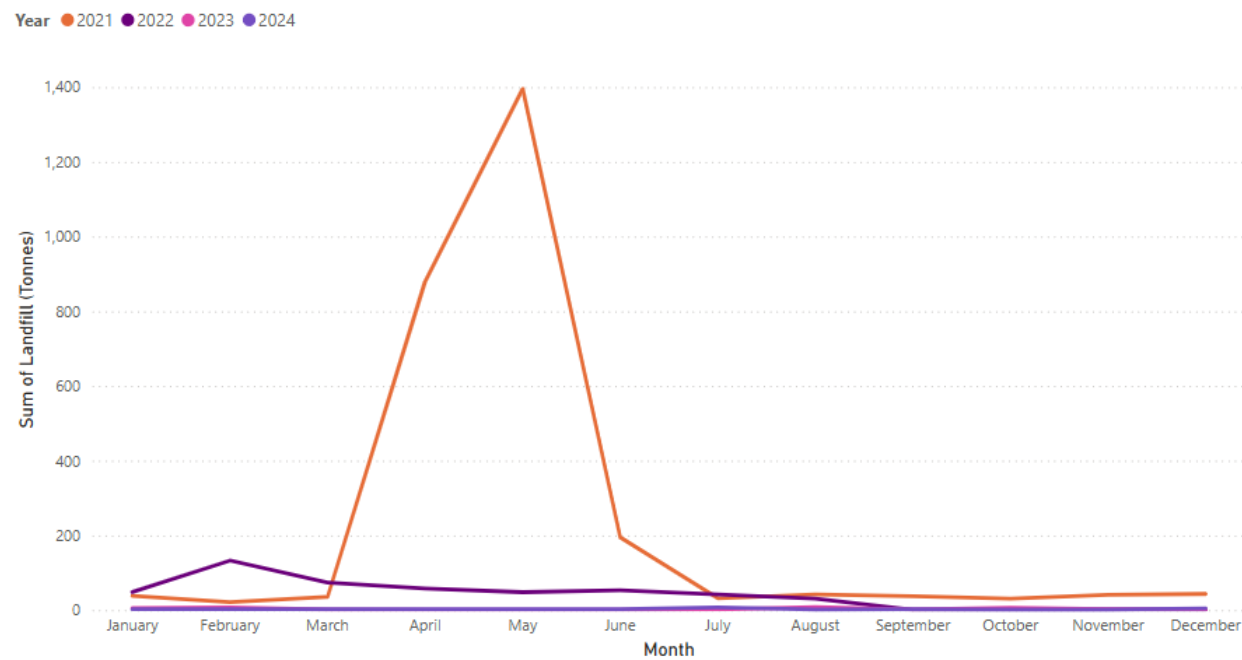


Since the adoption of the NELC waste management strategy (2020-2035), the council has made significant progress towards meeting our key national targets. One of our key national targets is to achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. In 2024 the Council achieved a recycling rate of 38.22%, down by 0.51% on the previous year and a decrease of 0.8% since 2021. Although we have seen a small local decrease in recycling rates, this is comparable to the national picture where the 2022 national recycling rates, which are the most recent figures available nationally, have been reported to have decreased year on year by 0.5%. This shows that there are national challenges to enabling people to recycle as well as local ones.

To try to better understand why recycling rates have stagnated within the borough since the initial increase in recycling rates following the adoption of NELC’s 2020 waste strategy, NELC’s waste team are working with the NEL insights team to identify things that are preventing people from recycling more and how we can look to enable people to recycle more. The insights team are looking into what impact national challenges are having on our recycling rate as well as looking at where local issues are preventing people from recycling.

It is worth noting that as we move towards the introduction of food waste collections nationally in 2026 and the introduction of a deposit return scheme in 2027, that these will have impacts to our recycling rates.

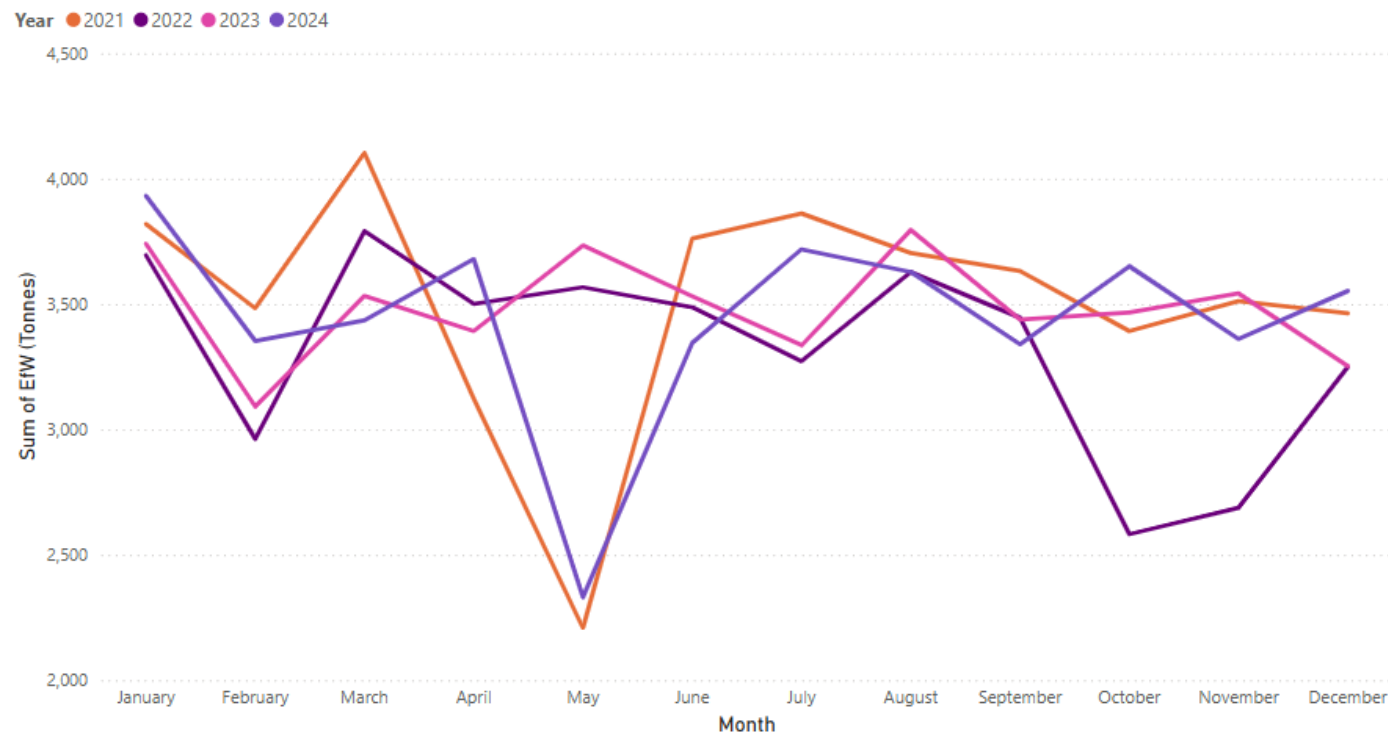
Waste to Landfill



We have continued our record of keeping levels of waste to landfill low. The National target for waste to landfill is 10% of all waste produced by 2030. Since 2021 progress has been made on the waste, we send to landfill due to eliminating the need to do this during the energy from waste plant shutdown.

In 2024 NELC sent only 35.36 tonnes of waste to landfill, this is the lowest tonnage of waste that has ever been sent to landfill over the course of a year. This means NELC are still well below the 2030 target for waste being sent to landfill and are currently operating at well below 1% of waste being sent to landfill.

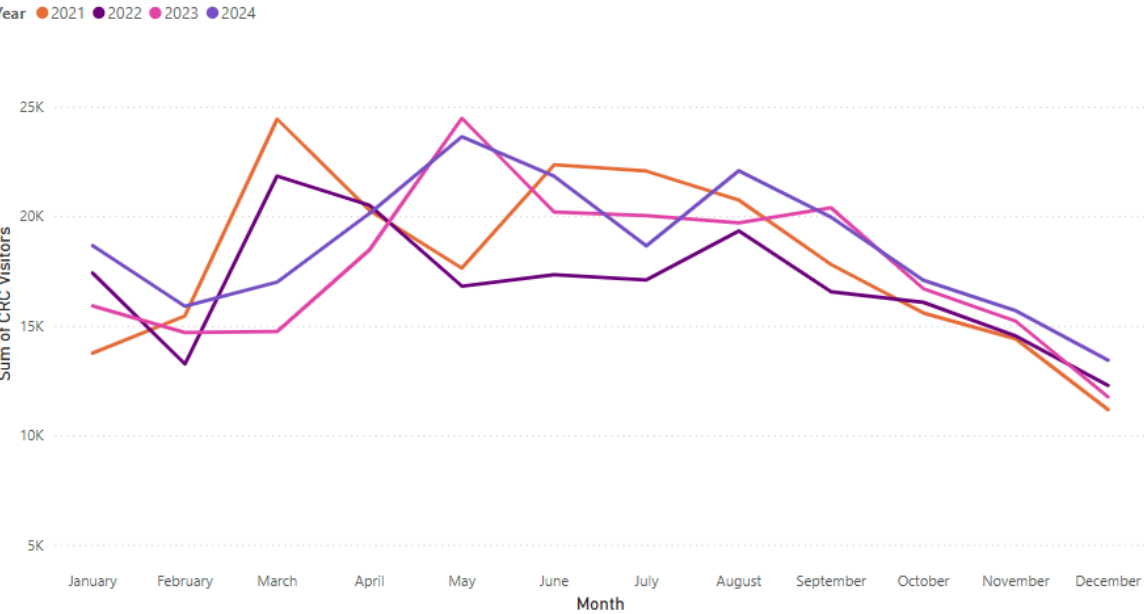
Energy from Waste



Our EfW rate increased slightly in 2024. However, when accounting for our decrease in recycling rates, this can account for our increase in EfW rate. While our EfW rate increased the overall tonnage of waste sent our energy from waste plant decreased by 528.108 tonnes. This is due to the combination of a reduction in overall residual waste being produced in NEL alongside a slight reduction in the amount of waste being sent for recycling. It is possible, when accounting for the figures for energy from waste and waste sent to landfill, that the decreased recycling rates are due to contaminated recycling waste that is making the waste unsuitable for recycling but still suitable to be treated at our energy from waste plant.

Overall, NELC is continuing a trend towards a circular economy and is committed to ensuring where it is not feasible for us to recycle material that we convert as much of our residual waste as possible to energy, minimising our waste to landfill. It is possible that our EfW rates are likely to decrease further as we move towards meeting the national recycling target by 2035.

Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)



2024 saw an increase in the number of people visiting our Community Recycling Centre sites (as seen in the graph above) when compared with 2023. CRC visits increased by 11,764 to a total of 223,981 visits at the CRC sites. The sites provide a valuable service for residents to dealing with occasional increases in waste and recycling or dispose of unwanted items that are not suitable for the wheeled bin collection.

Appendix 2

North East Lincolnshire Council – Carbon Roadmap

1. Low carbon estate (our buildings)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, historic energy and water data was gathered for each building and used to calculate our baseline carbon emissions. This baseline was used to determine where we need to focus our efforts. Our buildings were identified as having potential for energy efficiency savings and as well as green power and thermal energy solutions. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>A successful application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for grant funding to decarbonise nine council buildings. We're currently in phase one of a two-year project.</p> <p>A successful application for the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Phase 5 grant scheme through Salix. The scheme focuses on identifying renewable technology opportunities. Technical assessments for eight of our buildings have been carried out as</p>	<p>Our emission baseline and energy dashboards enable us to identify projects ready for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>Rationalising our estate allows for decarbonisation works and whole building improvements to fewer buildings, reducing the cost of decarbonising our whole estate.</p> <p>As regeneration projects come to fruition there will be further opportunities to explore low carbon technology within our buildings.</p>	<p>We do not have the funding to make all the energy improvements to our estate, and grant opportunities are oversubscribed.</p> <p>There are often high levels of technical information needed for these projects which we need to have prepared prior to future funding opportunities being identified.</p>	<p>Continue delivery of Phase 3c of PSDS project.</p> <p>We've submitted an application to Phase 4 of the PSDS to decarbonise a further two council buildings. We continue to engage with the grant funding providers on this application.</p> <p>Identify eligible buildings for future capital funding programmes.</p> <p>Explore capital opportunities for the heat network.</p>

<p>part of the grant and the decarbonisation plans will be finalised in February.</p> <p>We're currently in the process of executing our property rationalisation programme, which will reduce our overall carbon emissions. Further progress to be made in 2025.</p> <p>Progress on our One Public Estate (OPE) development fund project with opportunities and pipeline project such as exemplar energy efficient housing shared.</p> <p>Completed heat network feasibility studies.</p> <p>Draft Asset Management Plan presented to Scrutiny in January 2025, which incorporates our aims for a greener future.</p>			
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2. Low Carbon Fleet (our vehicles)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
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<p>In 2019, our fleet and recorded business mileage accounted for 28.7% of our total emissions, with 26.6% of our emissions from fleet alone. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Continued use of white diesel fuel for vehicles that are not electric yet, as there are fewer emissions.</p> <p>We have 35 fully electric vehicles in total.</p> <p>Continue to implement an amended fleet capital programme, which will see gradual transition to electric at all end of life fleet purchases, depended on market viability and availability.</p>	<p>Remodelling the central depot provides opportunities for solar PV vehicle charging bays as well as opportunities for increased use of pooled vehicles from a central location.</p> <p>Modelling data provides evidence that the increased cost to purchase EVs can mostly be offset by future savings on maintenance and fuel.</p>	<p>The challenge of finding suitable and affordable EV alternatives for specialist types of vehicles that are available on the market in line with our end-of-life fleet purchases in our amended fleet capital programme will delay the EV rollout.</p> <p>Availability from suppliers for EVs is another challenge, timeframes for production of EVs are increasing, which may lead to delays to our fleet capital programme.</p>	<p>Continue engagement on vehicle utilisation within teams to understand trends in usage data.</p> <p>Explore steps for a vehicle rationalisation project in which we can capitalise on the benefits of rationalising our estate by identifying opportunities to share fleet across the organisation, reducing the overall numbers in operation and the cost of replacement.</p> <p>Feasibility study for potential future electric bicycle use.</p>
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3. Low Carbon Street Lighting

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, electrical consumption from street lighting, seasonal lighting and other electrical supplies and equipment made up 20.8% of our carbon footprint with 40.9% of electricity kWh used. The position in</p>	<p>The switch to LED lighting for most of our street lighting has been successful, with further opportunity to explore whether we can seek external funding to modernise remaining lights to</p>	<p>Some of the remaining non-LED lighting is on leased land and therefore cannot be switched over to LED without leaseholder agreement.</p>	<p>Continue engagement with private leaseholders on opportunities to switch to LED lighting.</p> <p>Begin trials in more rural locations across the borough for solar LED lighting.</p>

<p>2021 was that 94% of our street lighting was LED, with the electricity for street lighting coming from a renewable source.</p> <p>Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Continued to convert specialist lighting to LED where market developments have allowed.</p> <p>Explored potential invest to save opportunity for conversion to SON lighting where LED is not suitable.</p> <p>Multiple car parks and lighting on leased land has been converted to LED. Opportunities for the remaining are still being explored.</p>	<p>reduce the overall fuel consumption even further.</p> <p>There are opportunities for LED lamps in old fittings to be upgraded to new LED, this would further decrease emissions.</p>		
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4. Climate Conscious Decision Making

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of decision making is important however we recognise that it is often difficult to quantify and imagine. We need to use the growing expertise amongst staff to</p>	<p>The impact of our green agenda can be widened by considering the environmental impact of all decisions.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to build in mitigation measures when</p>	<p>Achieving the balance between financial security and environmental sustainability can be challenging. We need to encourage and support people to consider the whole life cost in decision making and ensure those decisions are</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for training and guidance across the organisation to ensure environmental considerations are firmly embedded in key decision making across the organisation.</p>

<p>support with this process. This includes the creation of a decision-making toolkit to support decision makers.</p> <p>Progress on this workstream includes: -</p> <p>Began to embed climate conscious decision making into our existing practices, i.e inductions, existing e-learning, future training and e-learning programmes and in our governance process. Sustainability is now a consideration for cases submitted to Business Development Group (BDG). Nature recovery now a consideration for Cabinet Reports.</p> <p>Through trials of the draft toolkit and research into climate conscious decision making, the toolkit has been further developed to better suit our decision making.</p> <p>Carried out a review of the Environmental Sustainability Team, increasing skills, knowledge and capacity needed to drive the green agenda.</p>	<p>concerns and unidentified consequences of some decisions are raised.</p>	<p>being made at the early onset of any project, not solely at the approval stage.</p>	
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5. Climate Conscious Purchasing (goods and services)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of goods and services we purchase is identified as a key milestone to achieving our net zero targets. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Developing a new Procurement e-learning package, which includes sustainability considerations.</p> <p>Procurement templates updated to include guidance on considering the impacts on the environment of the goods, service and works being procured.</p>	<p>Procurement can be used as an instrument for our environmental and carbon ambitions, as a route to our supply chain. We have procurement networks where we can share ideas to help us develop low carbon procurement strategies.</p>	<p>We need to ensure that the advocacy for low carbon goods supports the fundamental procurement principles of transparency, equality of treatment and proportionality.</p> <p>We need to increase knowledge and understanding of all staff making procurement decision on how to assess environmental impact of goods and services.</p>	<p>Finalise and implement a procurement e-learning package, which includes education on considerations of a procurement's contribution to our Environmental Vision and Net Zero target.</p>

6. Climate Conscious Behaviours (to our staff and those that work for us)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>To help us drive reductions, it was acknowledged that a wide range of actions from many people are required. Improving the workforces understanding of carbon emissions</p>	<p>We can use our work on improving the climate conscious behaviours of employees as a trial to expand out to communities to help reach our wider community</p>	<p>There is a challenge to ensuring we are educating staff on why we are encouraging climate conscious behaviours; an awareness of climate change and our</p>	<p>Explore simplifying our energy dashboards, to allow staff to easily understand our progress, targets, and carbon impact of our buildings.</p>

<p>through building management, travel and use of equipment is vital. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Explore opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and educate our staff through IT purchasing hardware and software, and our use of IT equipment.</p> <p>Began outreach for climate champions in several departments and explored how to best use champions across services.</p>	<p>workstream of Climate Conscious Communities.</p> <p>There are also opportunities to embed climate conscious working behaviours into regular routines during our property rationalisation programme.</p>	<p>Environmental Vision may encourage more behaviour change.</p> <p>We need to understand some of the barriers experienced with more sustainable options, i.e infrastructure, feasibility, cost and awareness and find ways in which to overcome these.</p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities for Green Champions across the council, who are passionate about our climate ambitions and keen to engage with the teams they work within about climate change and carbon emissions.</p> <p>Develop programme to share with staff findings on IT carbon emissions and potential savings.</p> <p>Develop a mechanism in which to monitor and track our scope 3 carbon emissions across the organisation. These are indirect emissions that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of the organisations, i.e commuting to work.</p>
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7. Climate Conscious Community and Education, Involvement, Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Community engagement is a key to our success, with some community groups and leaders already providing leadership and taking positive steps to reduce their carbon emissions. We recognise the value that joint initiatives and community engagement has in climate resilience planning for the area.</p>	<p>We have supportive local networks and partners. We can use the work we have done within climate conscious behaviours and expand it for the community.</p>	<p>We still need to explore ways in which to measure the effectiveness of community engagement and education as a driver for behaviour change.</p>	<p>Explore with Public Health a joint strategy for engagement and communication with children and young people on climate change.</p> <p>Delivery of phase one of the DUNE Project</p> <p>Further engagement with community groups interested in tree planting across the borough.</p>

<p>Worked with local community groups to develop an expression of interest to Nature, Towns and Cities to improve connectivity and access to greenspace across the borough.</p> <p>Engaged with community groups on tree planting projects. The first phase of the project resulted in the planting of 416 trees. We are now in the process of delivering stage two of the project.</p> <p>A successful application to National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a project centred around Cleethorpes saltmarsh. The project seeks to build partnerships between public, private, voluntary and community sector partners to deliver an agreed engagement programme and deliver a range of initiatives in collaboration.</p>			<p>Continue to identify opportunities to work in collaboration with others on community led projects.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to work with partners to support local schools and education establishments with climate adaptation.</p>
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8. Low Carbon Commercial Buildings

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
We recognise that there are ways in which we can provide support to businesses and public business owners to reduce their own carbon	Providing local support, led by E-Factor, allows for more localised approach to giving advice for businesses.	External funding opportunities have short application timescales therefore can prove a challenge for businesses to meet these deadlines,	Supporting E-Factor and Team Lincolnshire with their planned Net Zero Events for businesses.

<p>emissions. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>In 2022, we secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding to enable our support to continue for local businesses, led by E-Factor, providing energy saving advice, workshops, events and audits with access to capital grants to support decarbonisation projects. Monthly newsletters are circulated, and we monitor the number of businesses that have engaged with us or E-Factor through this process. Records are also made on how beneficial the support has been to the business and whether any further guidance is needed.</p> <p>National Net Zero Training Centre has been established at CATCH. This aims to address the impending engineering construction skill shortage in the Humber and across the UK.</p> <p>Finalised the business engagement plan. Communication and engagement includes regular meetings with E-Factor, host 'meet the team' events, supported E Factor and Team Lincolnshire with</p>		<p>especially if there is uncertainty around the costs and savings. We can explore ways in which we can support and signpost businesses to ensure they know where to access information.</p> <p>We don't have information for all businesses in NEL</p> <p>Capacity to go out and speak to businesses so reliant on businesses to reach out and speak to us.</p>	<p>Continue delivering year three Shared Prosperity Fund, which includes decarbonisation grants for local businesses.</p>
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planned net zero events and sharing information on available grants through monthly newsletters.			
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9. Low Carbon Transport

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) contains a series of local transport challenges including “ensuring transport contributes to environmental excellence, improved air quality, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions”. This also includes behavioural change initiatives and events that support cycling, walking and promotes the use of public transport. Progress in the third year of implementation of the Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Approved Local Transport Plan and Delivery Plan.</p> <p>In 2023/24, we developed a local Electric Vehicle Strategy which includes a central strategic vision for EV infrastructure role out. We’ve now increased capacity to support the delivery of Electric Vehicle Charging Projects – Electrical</p>	<p>There are many funding opportunities available including the Department for Transport for EVs and Active Travel which provides opportunity to bid for significant amounts of funding for highways and transport projects which could help facilitate major improvements to local transport networks including the delivery of low carbon transport projects.</p>	<p>The Governments recent consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will provide new guidance for the development of the Local Plan. This will inform potential changes to the Local Transport Plan strategies. New guidance is expected in early 2025.</p>	<p>Continued development of feasibility plan and preliminary design Active Travel projects looking ahead to future ATE funding opportunities.</p> <p>Developing active travel schemes as the basis for future Department for Transport funding rounds.</p> <p>Delivery of the ORCS Project</p> <p>Await feedback from the LEVI Capital Bid, with approval from Cabinet if successful.</p>

<p>Engineer and a LEVI Traffic Regulation Officer</p> <p>Submitted a LEVI Capital Bid – including the submission of the final Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) documents. Expecting a response by March 2025.</p> <p>Evaluation and contract award of Onsite Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS).</p>			
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10. Low Carbon Industry

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our economic strategy cements our drive for carbon net zero, with one of the four cornerstones being a green economy. This milestone focuses on how we can work with industry to maximising low carbon and healthy initiatives in industry and our place. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Continued delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which continues to provide decarbonisation grants.</p>	<p>We already have many low carbon businesses locating to the borough and expansion of the wind industry continues.</p> <p>The Humber Freeport Innovation Group along with sector specific industry specialists are working together to raise awareness and opportunities for new technology.</p> <p>Business Case to support the creation of a skills facility in Grimsby town centre has been presented to Cabinet.</p>		<p>Continue working with industry on the delivery of the Skills Action Plan, which references supporting the decarbonisation and renewable sectors and project.</p> <p>Continue supporting the Humber Leadership Group with the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan's next phase.</p>

<p>Established a Freeport Skills Group. NELC have joined the working group for the Local Skills Improvement Plan with a new Skills Board being established.</p> <p>Projekt Renewable is established and supported by industry.</p> <p>The launch of the Seafish Industry Authority's Seafood Carbon Emissions Profiling Tool. The toolkit was developed in collaboration with industry leaders to support the seafood sector with decarbonisation.</p>			
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11. Low Carbon New Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have identified the role that we have in promoting the benefits of low carbon features in new homes. We can use our Local Plan and national guidance as a mechanism for this. Our progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Energy Efficiency requirements for new homes and non-domestic</p>	<p>There have been major changes to the Building Regulations which are mainly centred around energy efficiency.</p> <p>The Alexandra Dock Road Map sets out our ambition for ultra-low carbon housing in Grimsby Town Centre.</p>	<p>Low carbon features for new homes are generally not required by government and both developers and the public see them as risky, expensive, and untried.</p> <p>There is more work to do on getting buyers to value low carbon homes. Currently, there is no premium on homes that are low carbon, which makes them less financially viable</p>	<p>Future Homes Standard is due to be introduced in 2025.</p>

<p>buildings are set by Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and Part 6 of the Building Regulations 2010.</p> <p>Developing an evidence base to support the carbon reduction theme to the local plan review.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to deliver sustainable urban drainage programmes across the borough. Where there are groundwater issues, the drainage team are working with residents to inform them and address the issues. SUD's are now a requirement on all developments.</p>		<p>to deliver. We have viability challenges in the borough, which means we are limited in what we can ask for developments.</p> <p>Some developers are putting in EV charging points, but this is not currently a policy ask.</p> <p>All changes to legislation and policy are discussed at Housing Developer Forum.</p>	
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12. Climate Conscious Older Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In the same way in which we look at our council buildings, we have identified that many homes across the borough would benefit from energy efficiency improvements to become more sustainable.</p> <p>Progress in the third year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p>	<p>There is now a minimum EPC rating for let properties and social housing landlords now have finance available through social housing decarbonisation fund.</p> <p>We have developed plans for Housing retrofit schemes in some areas of poorest energy performance and are now</p>	<p>We have a high quantity of older, poor quality housing stock owned and/or occupied by lower income households for whom fuel poverty is a reality. Bulk of our E and F rated properties are in private ownership. Whilst we promote energy efficiency schemes, people have a choice as to whether they want to</p>	<p>The development of a Fuel Poverty Strategy is included in the recent Housing Strategy. This will be delivered within the next 24 months.</p> <p>Continue to deliver LAD3 (extended) and ECO 4 Programmes.</p> <p>Develop a Marketing Strategy to promote the various energy efficiency schemes during the</p>

<p>Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP) have been successful in their application for funding to decarbonise homes in the borough. They have been awarded £8.1m in wave 1 of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). They also plan to apply for further funding in 2025.</p> <p>The revised Housing Assistance Policy has been approved by Cabinet and offers loans to landlords and householders to finance energy saving improvements to their home. Disabled Facilities Grants now include warm home check to ensure that properties can be heated efficiently which will improve health outcomes.</p> <p>Continued successful delivery of Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3 funding and Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) funding used to improve energy efficiency of housing.</p>	<p>reviewing national funding options to progress.</p> <p>We work with the community and third sector housing providers to ensure eligible households have access to and are aware of opportunities available. These schemes are widely promoted across the borough.</p> <p>Social housing providers are working with us to improve the standard of social housing. Examples include a recent external wall programme in Immingham and parts of Grimsby.</p>	<p>carry out energy efficiency improvements.</p> <p>Funding aimed at the private rented sector often require match funding or a landlord contribution. Landlords are often reluctant to contribute as they don't directly realise the benefits of reduced energy bills.</p> <p>Social housing providers may dispose of housing stock which is deemed to be difficult to decarbonise. This places additional challenges on the availability of social housing.</p>	<p>summer, so people think about improvements before the inclement weather arrives.</p>
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Appendix 3

North East Lincolnshire Council – Natural Assets Plan

1. Planning Our Future Land Use

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We continue to plan for the legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision, including opportunities to increase biodiversity. Progress has been made in finalising the Draft Local Plan, including ongoing engagement. Consultation is now finished on the draft Local Plan, with responses being reviewed.</p> <p>The authority is now receiving applications that are required to meet new biodiversity requirements. We continue to work with colleagues across the organisation to support effective delivery.</p>	<p>The Local Plan provides an opportunity to update our policies to meet the emerging priorities for carbon reduction and increased environmental protection and enhancement.</p> <p>In the Scoping and Issues Paper as part of Local Plan Review, flagged addressing climate change as one key issue to address.</p> <p>BNG is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. Developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development.</p>	<p>We continue to engage with developers to understand the challenges faced in meeting biodiversity net gain requirements. These include the lack of local BNG opportunities.</p> <p>The governments revised National Policy Planning Framework presents a significant increase in the housing allocation for the borough. We continue to respond to planning announcements from governments to ensure the opportunities and challenges for the borough are accurately presented.</p>	<p>Revisions to Draft Local Plan in preparation for the Submission Draft Plan</p> <p>Complete housing employment site evidence for engagement and publication - Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)</p> <p>Continue work across the authority, with our partner agencies and developers on the BNG process, finding ways to support effective delivery.</p>

2. Managing Our Open Spaces

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst we have statutory duties in relation to managing some aspects of our open spaces (trees, road verges and parks), there are opportunities for our open spaces and highways to contribute to nature recovery.</p> <p>Progress to date includes: -</p> <p>Finalising our Play Area Scheme – this is now 95% complete and due to complete by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Reviewed the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan – with an updated plan due for Cabinet on the 12th March 2025.</p> <p>Completed a project to review backlog maintenance for our parks and open spaces</p> <p>Submitted an Expression of Interest to the Nature, Towns and Cities Programme for grant funding to support a community led connectivity project. The project aims to connect all boroughs across</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to manage sites in a different way, contributing to nature recovery.</p> <p>Build on the community and partnership work in other workstreams to explore ways to involve and include our local community groups in managing our open spaces.</p> <p>Implementation of a new management system, which will better align work across Environment.</p>	<p>Some of the new play equipment installed has already been vandalised.</p> <p>The decision to phase out of the use of glyphosate and allow some areas may at times look unmanaged. We need to carefully assess the balance against community perception.</p>	<p>Support community led projects to identify opportunities to improve our open spaces.</p> <p>Be aware of funding opportunities to support our work and bid when the time is right.</p> <p>Continue our efforts to produce and update management plans for our destination parks.</p> <p>Develop and implement the new management system.</p> <p>Considerations presented to Scrutiny in response to a petition to phase out the use of Glyphosate. Progress the outcome.</p>

<p>North East Lincolnshire through community led greening projects that provides increased green space, access to nature and green corridors between the wards.</p> <p>Increased resource within the team to support with the delivery of green projects.</p> <p>In response to a petition to reduce the use of glyphosate across the borough as a means of weed control, a review has been carried out with a suggested action plan to reduce and phase out the use of the chemical.</p>			
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3. Biodiversity and Special Sites

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
As a landowner and a competent authority, we have a duty to uphold the ecological and environmental designations of sites with special designations for nature. We also have a duty to promote, protect and enhance priority habitats, species and secure measurable net gain for biodiversity.	As a Competent Authority, NELC have a statutory duty to protect our natural environment, increase biodiversity and protect, enhance and maintain our designated sites. Through our work with Heritage Lottery and our newly announced status as a Heritage Place, there are many opportunities to align	Balancing the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourism destination, while protecting the designations of the Cleethorpes coastline remains a challenge. A partnership approach to effective engagement, communication and education can alleviate some of the recreational pressures to the	<p>Finalise the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan for presentation to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>Deliver the DUNE Project and explore additional funding opportunities to support the outcomes of the project.</p> <p>Fulfil our role of completing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area.</p>

<p>The nature of this work is ongoing, however efforts to enhance our environment and engage and empower the community include:</p> <p>The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan has received approval from Natural England. The Plan outlines our approach to maintaining, protecting and enhancing the Cleethorpes coastline.</p> <p>A successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver our Dynamic Understanding of the Natural Environment (DUNE) Project. This is a project centred around the saltmarsh to improve knowledge and understanding, educate and improve alternative recreational space to reduce the pressures on the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>Work is progressing on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021. We are working closely with colleagues in Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Natural England and Greater Lincolnshire</p>	<p>our continued efforts with the environmental ambitions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and connect our communities to nature.</p> <p>The new legislation provides an opportunity to increase biodiversity across the borough, with developers having to provide a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity, with the net gains being monitored over 30 years.</p>	<p>designated sites by ensuring people enjoy the Cleethorpes coastline responsibly.</p> <p>Support developers to navigate the challenges they are experiencing with delivering biodiversity net gain requirements.</p>	<p>Continue to support developers with the new biodiversity net gain requirements through effective communication, stakeholder sessions and guidance. This includes Identifying and mapping local BNG opportunities across the borough.</p> <p>Continue to explore funding opportunities to protect and enhance our natural environment.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to showcase the mitigation sites, which includes live stream cameras and educational visits.</p>
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<p>Nature Partnership to develop the Strategy. Public surveys, stakeholder engagement and landowner / manager workshops have taken place as part of this process, with a view to finalising the Strategy for public consultation in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>Facilitated visits to the mitigation sites for partner organisations and ward councillors to showcase the sites.</p>			
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4. Trees and Woodland

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty to ensure that highways are safe, which includes the inspection of the highway tree stock. We've identified that planting more trees and protecting our existing tree population has many benefits including heat reduction through shading, reduce the impact of significant rainfall and carbon sequestration and storage, positively contributing to reaching our carbon net zero ambitions.</p> <p>Our progress to date includes: -</p>	<p>There is increasing public awareness on the importance of trees for not just carbon goals but also physical and mental health, as well as heat reduction and flooding management.</p> <p>There is a real opportunity to build on the partnership approach achieved for the tree planting projects for wider environmental community initiatives across the borough.</p>	<p>Challenges with identifying land in which to plant trees. We are however working with others to support tree planting on private land, demonstrating a collaborative effort to increasing the number of trees in the borough.</p> <p>We must also ensure that we get the right trees for the right location, ensuring that maintenance and management is taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Deliver the second stage of the tree planting projects from 2024/25.</p> <p>Explore further funding streams to build on the work we've achieved so far with these bids to explore other tree and woodland planting opportunities.</p> <p>Continue work on the woodlands creation project.</p>

<p>The approval of NELC's first Tree Strategy, demonstrating our commitment to managing and protecting our existing tree stock and increasing tree canopy cover across the borough.</p> <p>Successful in two funding bids, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) to increase tree canopy cover through the planting of new street trees in urban or peri-urban environments and the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF), the focus of which is the replacement of trees lost to damage or disease. 416 trees were planted in 2023/24 with support from local community groups, volunteers and schools and colleges. This work will continue in 2024/25.</p> <p>The creation of a new webpage dedicated to trees, in which the community can report their tree planting contributions to increasing our tree canopy covers.</p> <p>Partnership approach to tree planting projects, which includes NHS, Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP), Town Councils,</p>		<p>And achieve the full potential of the ecological function of trees and woodland by considering ground cover and understory planting in conjunction with increasing canopy cover.</p> <p>We must ensure that the planting of any new trees comes with the resource for long term maintenance, to allow us to grow trees to maturity. And ensure 'right tree, right place' to avoid future losses from tree removal due to safety and insurance risks.</p> <p>Vandalism remains a constant risk, especially for new trees that are planted as part of the 'greening up our place' projects. Attempts to design out vandalism and anti-social behaviour has been a key aspect of the project design but we must remain vigilant.</p>	
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<p>community groups, schools and colleagues across the organisation.</p> <p>Commenced design plans and engagement with ward councillors and the local residents on a proposed new community woodland. We're working closely with the Forestry Commission to explore the grant funding opportunities to realise the potential for the identified piece of land.</p>			
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5. Water Management

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a local authority, we manage flood risk in urban areas. Our area is also covered by Humber 2100+ strategy, which covers flood management for the estuary. Efforts to manage and increase our resilience against flooding include: - Using funding from the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Fund to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) successful across Grimsby and Immingham. Progress is underway on this 6 year project, which uses green infrastructure to control flooding. The first phase of delivery at 4 schools, Western, Wybers, Pilgram and Oasis complete. The project at Broadway is also now complete, with designs for Immingham complete and currently in the tender process phase.</p> <p>NELC is part of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership. The Partnership was established to make sustainable improvements to chalk streams and blow wells across Lincolnshire, raise awareness of their importance and improve the</p>	<p>The change in the national approach to focus on resilience and management of flooding rather than prevention supplies vast opportunities for water management that previously would not have been favoured. There is more emphasis on natural flood adaptation measures.</p> <p>Anglian Water – future funding opportunities for natural flood defences.</p> <p>New Framework available through Environment Agency to offer grant funding on an individual property basis for flood resilience measures.</p> <p>Discussions are currently taking place to improve the rural flows into the Grimsby Sewer Network.</p>	<p>The first draft of the Humberstone Fitties erosion project has been submitted, The Environment Agency requested additional modelling and analysis to be undertaken, which included an assessment of the southern sea embankment.</p> <p>We are awaiting an update on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act. This requires the approval of a SuDs Approval Body to approve surface water draining systems on new developments. We've identified the need for additional resource, at least 1 FTE and supporting staff, creating job opportunities within the borough.</p>	<p>Continue work on Stage 2 of the Humber Strategy 2100+.</p> <p>Keep up to date on potential implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act, including recruitment.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the retrofit SUD projects, sharing learning from our experiences and continue to look at Natural Flood Management. (St Ives Crescent) - out to tender next year.</p> <p>Surface water modelling looking at flood risk across Grimsby. - Information to be submitted to the EA for consideration.</p> <p>Progress site investigation work on Saltings / Kingston Gardens groundwater project.</p> <p>Continue to engage our communities and voluntary organisations in SUDs with a view to involvement in future monitoring and management.</p> <p>Progress the business case for the Humberstone Fitties erosion project scheme. The project will try and halt the erosion of the beach and provide each nourishment and improvements to critical habitats.</p>

<p>partnerships knowledge on Lincolnshire Chalk stream and blow well habitats. Site investigation works underway for a new Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project. The Project will alleviate flooding issues on the Saltings and Kingston Gardens.</p> <p>The Humber Strategy 2100+ has completed has progressed to the second stage. This stage will identify future flood risk and where and when this will increase.</p> <p>Consultation complete on the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, with consultation feedback currently being reviewed.</p>			<p>Continue our work with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership, identifying project opportunities in North East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Progress the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for formal approval.</p>
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6. Improving Air Quality

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our main duties come under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which includes the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels and small scale pollution incidents.</p> <p>NELC continues to enjoy excellent air quality with zero exceedances</p>	<p>We've taken the opportunity to ensure that the importance of air quality is a consideration in the planning process, feeding into the Draft Local Plan. This is supported by a technical advice document.</p>	<p>New legislative changes introduced through the Environment Act 2021, the publication of the Air Quality Strategy and Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 places additional responsibilities and expectations on Local Authorities. This will continue to be researched</p>	<p>Reviewing local air quality data for 2024 and continuing with quarterly ASC meetings.</p> <p>Continue to manage the operation of the AQ monitoring equipment, following a new calibration timetable.</p>

<p>recorded in 2022; the fifth consecutive year where compliance with AQOs has been achieved. As a result, we have revoked the AQMA.</p> <p>Submission of the Annual Status Report to DEFRA</p> <p>Review Air Quality NELC webpages to reflect the revocation.</p> <p>Air Quality Technical Note drafted and submitted to Planning for review.</p>	<p>Recognise the importance of nature-based solutions in improving air quality. An example being the tree planting efforts in other workstreams.</p>	<p>and reviewed and fed into our action plan.</p>	<p>Update Air Quality Strategy to reflect the revocation of the AQMA.</p>
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7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty as an authority to protect and enhance the wellbeing of our area and its residents, employees and visitors. We want to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with our natural environment and address inequalities in accessing a good quality environment. Progress towards these outcomes include: -</p> <p>Successful with an Active Travel capital bid for pedestrian and place</p>	<p>Positive delivery of the capital schemes and the ATE Capability Fund can lead to increased funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Current levels of funding are below what we need for large transformational schemes</p> <p>Local views and attitudes towards active, particularly around the safety. Current infrastructure challenges.</p> <p>Public concerns around theft and vandalism when opting to cycle to work. Appropriate levels of funding are needed to address concerns</p>	<p>Consider ways in which the Try-an E-bike project can continue once the grant funding is no longer available. 'The Cycle Hub' – Partner. Opportunities for people to hire bikes on a short-term basis.</p> <p>Local Transport Plan Project Delivery.</p> <p>Development of new Local Transport Plan Strategy including consideration to the role active travel has on health and wellbeing.</p>

<p>making improvements at the end of new Cartergate. Preliminary designs now complete.</p> <p>Proposals developed to utilise Department for Transport Active Travel Capability Grant</p> <p>Creation of a StoryMap to make access to Public Rights of Way in North East Lincolnshire easier.</p> <p>All parks that have children's play equipment in now have smoke free signage.</p>		<p>around safe and secure cycle parking.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to integrate actual travel into wider infrastructure projects and recognise the public health benefits.</p>
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8. Education, Involvement and Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst there is no requirement to educate the community, about environmental matters, but by providing education and engagement can help to bring about behaviour change, and this means that fewer people make mistakes and become the subject of enforcement action.</p> <p>The following outlines the progress to date on this workstream:</p>	<p>Successful delivery of the DUNE project can provide the evidence base for future grant funded opportunities.</p> <p>Residents and visitors understand our environmental issues and enjoy nature without causing damage.</p> <p>Our local community act as champions our environment.</p>	<p>Whilst we recognise that there are huge opportunities for eco-tourism in Cleethorpes, due to the unique position of the resort as an SSSI, which is part of the Eastern Atlantic Flyway bird migration route, we must be careful that the pressure brought by increasing visitor numbers does not cause disturbance to the birds, as this threatens their survival and the whole population.</p>	<p>Review community engagement arrangements on environmental issues alongside the Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise review.</p> <p>Build on the community engagement for the tree planting projects to explore other greening opportunities.</p> <p>Build on the discussions with Public Health to discuss a collective strategy for engaging and communicating with children and young people on climate change.</p>

<p>Continued ward based communication and engagement on the tree planting projects.</p> <p>Successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Dynamic Understanding of the Natural Environment (DUNE) Project. The project will see the creation of two new posts to support with partnership working, community engagement and education opportunities around the saltmarsh.</p> <p>Engagement with ward councillors and local residents on the new community woodland creation project.</p> <p>Successful expression of interest to the Nature, Towns and Cities Project, which if successful at the application phase, will be used to support community greening up and connectivity projects across the borough.</p> <p>Commenced revisions to the council website to improve user access and experience when looking for trusted information, support and how to get involved in improving our environment.</p>	<p>Cleethorpes to be recognised as an eco-tourism destination with sustainable tourism forming part of the visitor experience.</p>		<p>Commence the recruitment and preparation for the delivery of the DUNE Project</p> <p>Explore educational opportunities at the mitigation sites.</p> <p>Finalise the prioritise work programme for the environmental education officers.</p> <p>Progress the Freshney Parkway Project</p> <p>Work with the local community groups and organisations on an application to Nature, Towns and Cities for revenue funding to support our community wide greening up ambitions.</p>
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<p>Work has continued with the Freshney Parkway Group, consisting of ward members, community groups, residents and council officers interested in working together to improve and promote the Freshney Parkway. The area is already a designated Local Nature Reserve but the group felt more could be done to improve, enhance and promote the area as a collective effort.</p>			
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