

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE

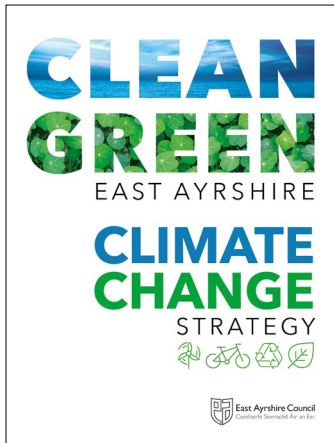
CHANGE

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021|22

“East Ayrshire will be a low carbon place with a thriving and diverse environment. We will have strong, healthy, resilient and vibrant communities that benefit from high quality places, multi-functional green spaces and access to high quality services that are well located to maximise sustainable travel choices. Our economy will have recovered and be fairer, greener and more inclusive, with all East Ayrshire citizens able to benefit from greater economic opportunities.”



Our Climate Change ambitions



Our Climate Change Strategy was agreed in 2021 and to support our ambitious climate change targets for the Council to be net zero by 2030 and for the wider East Ayrshire area to be net zero by 2045, a £1 million Climate Change Investment fund was established to accelerate our decarbonisation plans. This report charts our latest progress towards net zero and highlights some of our key achievements.

Introduction

from Councillor Barton our Net Zero, Environment and Climate Change Spokesperson



I am extremely proud of the progress that we have made in reducing the Council's carbon emissions during 2021/22 and indeed of the more recent changes which have been implemented by the Council and will further accelerate our journey towards net zero. We continue to improve the energy efficiency of our estate and as we move to green energy sources, I am delighted to see our gas consumption continuing to fall, with a reduction of almost 10% secured. The shift from diesel to Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) will also significantly reduce the emissions of our fleet by up to 90% in future years. Our food waste campaign continues to encourage the proper disposal and recycling of our food waste and it is good

to see this making a real difference and our new waste disposal contract will deliver game changing reductions in the Council's carbon emissions as we see our waste diverted from landfill and convert into refuse derived fuel.

Our children and young people continue to lead our climate change response, developing their own climate change action plans and I would encourage everyone to look at their own behaviours. A series of videos, which can be accessed [here](#), has been produced to highlight the activity going on across the Council and I hope that these will give you some ideas and inspire you to reduce your own carbon emissions as we work towards creating a cleaner, greener East Ayrshire.



Our performance

The Climate Change Annual Performance Report details our achievements throughout the year. The councils overall carbon footprint has dropped 3% from last year, equating to a reduction of 24% against the council's 2012 baseline. There has been positive progress made across our four themes - **Energy, Waste, Transport and Natural Environment.**

[Update on Climate Change Actions.](#)

Highlights for 2021/22 are:



Council on 24 June 2021 approved our first Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan and agreed to join the UK100. This places East Ayrshire at the forefront of tackling climate change as we join 105 other councils across the UK in an ambitious pledge to beat UK Government climate change targets by becoming a Net Zero Council by 2030.



As we shift from gas to green heating sources, such as heat pumps in many of our new buildings and switch our small vehicles to electric, our electricity consumption has actually increased slightly by just under 2%. However, as the electricity supplied from the grid is increasingly generated from renewable sources, this is positive direction of travel.



The Council has switched fleet from using diesel to Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO). HVO is an alternative to diesel and is made from sustainable vegetable oils from food waste products. This is anticipated to reduce carbon emissions from transport in future years by around 90%.



A key aim of the Climate Change Strategy is to promote positive behaviour change. The Active Travel Strategy was approved by cabinet in June to encourage active travel, particularly for those shorter journeys. In line with this strategy our Mission to the Moon initiative will be encouraging our young people to walk, scoot, cycle to school which will promote active travel.



In line with the Waste Hierarchy, our primary focus is to reduce unnecessary waste: processes aren't required to deal with waste that doesn't exist. Where reduction isn't possible, we should reuse, repair, recycle, recover, and, finally, dispose of waste. This method filters down waste ensuring that the absolute minimum goes to landfill.



Our food waste campaign continues to encourage the proper disposal and recycling of our food waste, which prevents it going to landfill and releasing damaging methane into the environment. Our stickers and bin tags have secured a 10% increase in food now being recycled and used to generate energy.



Our new waste disposal contract will deliver game changing reductions in the Council's carbon emissions as we aim to ensure that by 2025, all of our waste will be diverted from landfill and convert into refuse derived fuel.



Within East Ayrshire there is significant opportunity to use our rich and diverse natural environment to mitigate the impact of climate change and offset our carbon emissions. As the North Kyle Masterplan (Forestry and Land Scotland) and Coalfields to Wildwood are both restoring and enhancing our natural environment through planting and forestation.



There is real interest in Community Growing Initiatives and we have plans to engage with our communities to develop urban crofts and other local food growing initiatives.

Signed up to the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity.

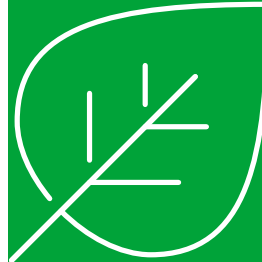
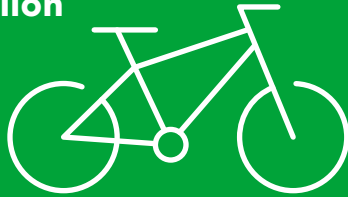


Gas consumption fell by almost **10%**



New Waste Recycling Contract anticipated to deliver a **20-30% reduction** in waste sent to landfill during 2022/23

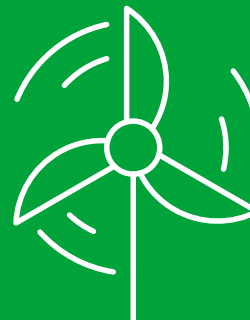
101 electric vehicles, which have completed **2 million electric miles**



Nearly **120 hectares woodland plans** on paper at the moment, averaging around 2500 trees per hectare



18 schools were recognised for their climate change action plans at our first **Clean Green Education Awards** in June 2022

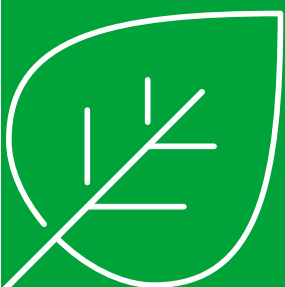


Street Lighting improvement Programme **70% complete**, improving Street lighting by using low energy LED lamps will help reduce energy consumption



200% increase in the number of requests for replacement food caddies and a **10% increase** in food waste

HVO will be used instead of diesel to power our fleet reducing our transport **CO2 emissions by 90%**



1,000 trees planted by our young people within East Ayrshire



Over **160** children & young people attended our third Young Peoples Climate Change Conference in 2022 with **more than 200** also joining online



Greening Business

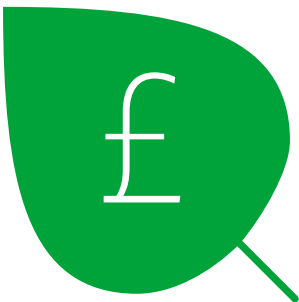
The **East Ayrshire Net Zero** grant is a non-repayable grant which should cover 50% of the approved project expenditure, up to a maximum of £3,000. This is intended to help businesses in their transition to net zero carbon emissions by assisting small to medium sized businesses with the implementation of energy and resource efficiency improvements.

For further details about East Ayrshire Net Zero Support Grant, please email business@east-ayrshire.gov.uk



Our Young People

Our Children and Young People have been at the forefront of driving the climate change response here in East Ayrshire: submitting and carrying out climate change action plans for the opportunity to win a **Clean Green School Award**. Award winners have the opportunity to showcase their achievements and share best practice with peers at our annual Youth Climate Conference which provides the additional opportunity for young people to engage with elected members, partners and council officers who in turn action the feedback and ideas of our young people. [Council celebrates here](#).



Climate and Cost of Living

There are clear links between cost of living challenges and climate change with measures taken to reduce our energy consumption not only saving us money but at the same time saving our planet. As the Cost of Living Crisis is having negative impacts on family budgets, it has focused our minds on how we can reduce our energy consumption. To help reduce costs and save energy, we have developed an **Eco friendly cook book**, which includes affordable, cleaner, greener recipes for cooks of all abilities, as well as useful resources and facts that will help you make behaviour changes in daily life that little bit easier.

[Cost of Living Support](#).

For further information

The Annual Performance Report 2021/22 and copies of this summary are available on the [Climate Change webpage](#).

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