

## Appendix 1: HHEPAC Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Status

# Biodiversity and Climate Change *Successes*

Placed Joint  
**35th**  
186 Councils

on the implementation of our Action Plan  
by Climate Emergency UK and  
placed second in Kent

10%

Carbon reduction in scope  
1 and 2 emissions from  
2021/22-2022/23

27%

Largely due to a reduction  
in emissions from the  
Leisure centre.

17%



of our fleet upgraded to EV's

54



Officers and elected members  
carbon literacy trained  
with 3 more training days  
booked for early 2024

50%



Climate change newsletter  
subscribers doubled in 2023

31

Plug in charging points  
installed at the depot



65%



Maidstone residents installing solar panels on  
their property through the 2023 Solar Together  
Scheme compared with the 2022 scheme.

4

Community organisations provided funding  
for carbon reduction projects through the  
Rural England Prosperity Fund,  
with an expected eight more organisations  
to be awarded funding in 2024



1,926

Visitors to Maidstone's  
Eco Hub



500

Eco Bags given to  
Maidstone residents



6,000

Trees to be planted  
in winter 2023/24

Our main offices,  
Maidstone House,  
the Depot,  
and the Crematorium  
upgraded to fully LED



£3,126,536

of funding bid for to retrofit Maidstone House



Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer(s)	February 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
<b>Decarbonising and Insulating Homes and Buildings</b>							
<b>Action 2.1</b> Explore grants schemes for residents, landlords and housing associations, for retrofitting insulation, and low carbon heating systems.	Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee  And  Councillor Claudine Russell  Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee	John Littlemore  Philip Jennings	The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 grant funding agreement has been signed by all relevant parties. The grant is being advertised (targeted advertising first before being opened to wider advertising to relevant wards in the early 2024.  Meetings have progressed with Eon to partner to promote and administer ECO Flex (Energy Companies Obligation) to increase ECO's eligibility criteria. The grant provides low carbon heating and insulation measures.  There was a delay in the HUG2 grant funding agreement being signed by partners, therefore the roll-out of the scheme has been delayed. This will result in a delay of getting works completed at eligible properties in Spring 2024.  Further work is required to partner with Eon and make the Council's ECO Flex statement of intent ready for implementation. This should be ready for advertising to households in early 2024.	Number of residents with EPC rating improvements of A-C from D-G	2023	Across timeline to 2030	On track
<b>Action 2.2</b> Enforce Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.	Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	John Littlemore  Philip Jennings	Enforcement of the regulations have progressed well with over 650 rented properties improved from EPC F and G to A-E.  Landlords may apply for exemptions for their properties. (33 properties have been exempted). A small number are now in the process of either being improved or the landlord being fined.  Further Energy Performance Certificates are entered on the database monthly, and these must be checked further.  The Landlord forum will also be used to disseminate information to landlords.	As above	2023	Across timeline to 2030	On track

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			The Council's Accommodation Standards Policy will be amended in the New Year so that only dwellings with an EPC of A to C (D in exceptional circumstances) will be used to place homeless households.				
<b>Reducing Waste</b>							
<b>Action 4.1</b> Investigate recycling strategies in the Town centre.	Councillor Patrik Garten  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	Jen Stevens  John Edwards	Clear bags are ordered and we hope to start segregating recycling from litter at the start of February. This will be through litter picking rather than litter bins at this stage.	NA	2024	Across timeline to 2030	On track
<b>Action 4.2</b> Ensure MBC offices and buildings have recycling facilities.	Councillor Patrik Garten  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	Mark Green  Katie Exon	Maidstone House internal waste team cannot provide any other recycling, other than paper and card. Officers have asked managing agents (Fidum) to source an alternative provider and provide us with a cost for provision of bins and disposal. They plan to furnish us with these costs by March, we have asked for 2 options – one for the entire building and one for the areas only occupied by MBC, this is in respect of MH only. Once we have received the costs, we can look at the viability of rolling this out to other buildings – Town hall, museum etc.	Increase in office recycling and reduction in waste	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Delayed due to existing contract term
<b>Adapting to Climate Change</b>							
<b>Action 5.2</b> Identify actions to mitigate climate change in existing developments.	Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	James Wilderspin  Gemma Bailey	Officers have identified seven potential solar PV projects on Council buildings to maximise the renewable energy generated on these buildings for direct use by the Council cutting utility bills and reducing the Council's carbon emissions. A business case to invest in a solar farm has been presented to Cabinet.  Officers continue to investigate nature-based solutions projects and tree planting opportunities, to reduce flooding and urban heat islands.  Shared heat network solutions continue to be investigated with third parties for Maidstone Town Centre.	NA	2023	Across timeline to 2030	On track

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<b>Enhancing and Increasing Biodiversity</b>							
<b>Action 6.4</b> Enhance and expand wetland coverage across the Borough to support nutrient neutrality, flood prevention, and enhance biodiversity.	Councillor David Burton And Councillor Paul Cooper  Planning, Infrastructure, And Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee  And Councillor Patrik Garten  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	Mark Green  Rob Jarman  James Wilderspin	Officers are preparing to go out to tender for specialist expansion and desilting of several MBC wetland and pond areas (see July report for further details). Works in parks and on MBC land is planned to commence in autumn 2024.  Officers are working with South East Rivers Trust (SERT) to identify funding, and partners with Ashford Council to expand the " <a href="#">Bring back the Beult</a> " project to introduce wide scale water retention and nature based solutions to the Upper Medway catchment. Senior officers have met with SERT and further meetings are to be held with Alsford Council to determine project and funding scope.	Water quality	2022	2025	In progress
<b>Making our Estate Carbon Neutral</b>							
<b>Action 7.4</b> Identify temporary accommodation assets eligible for insulation and low carbon heating upgrades under funding schemes and arrange installation. Provide top up funding for any measures not fully funded to ensure all homes let by MBC as	Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	William Cornall  John Littlemore	When the Council buys and refurbishes homes to utilise for Temporary Accommodation, we stipulate that they must be refurbished to an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C. Unfortunately, the social housing decarbonisation grant does not appear to be available for temporary accommodation. Something overlooked by DUHLC, something the Council has lobbied on.  The Council is also currently undertaking a comprehensive refurbishment of Granada House, comprising 20	NA	2023	Across the timeline to 2030	Delayed due to lack of grant

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temporary accommodation are energy efficient and EPC rating improved to requirement.			<p>apartments, with monies from the Local Authority Housing Fund. Granada House was previously a Private Rented Sector asset that is being converted to affordable housing with a comprehensive specification that will deliver a high EPC rating and there is an ongoing commitment to explore the deployment of solar PV on the roof too.</p> <p>AHP technology will start going into our 1,000 affordable homes programme to meet the Future Homes Standard (FHS) via Building Regulations.</p>				