

Climate Change

Key findings

This report provides a summary of the key findings from the seventh Hampshire Perspectives survey, which sought to understand how the county council could achieve a green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Between 15 February 2021 and 1 March 2021, **749** residents shared their perspective on ways in which residents and the County Council could help tackle climate change and to reduce carbon emissions to net zero in Hampshire by 2050.

Overall, the survey revealed that:

- the majority of respondents (70%) were in agreement that the County Council should help the economy recover from COVID-19 in a way that would help to achieve net zero carbon emissions;
- in particular, the county council should consider investing in infrastructure, encouraging a low carbon economy and taking advantage of the current opportunities for change in order to achieve net zero;
- almost eight out of ten respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as lockdown eases, the County Council should encourage lifestyle changes to reach net zero carbon emissions;
- reducing food waste and choosing energy efficient appliances were the most popular lifestyle changes that respondents felt should be encouraged by the County Council;
- respondents were more willing to make changes to the way that they travel or the utilities they use, than to change what they eat (such as reducing meat consumption) to reduce their impact on the environment;
- when looking at differences in response by demographic group, age was an influencing factor, particularly that those who were aged 25-34 were more willing to make lifestyle changes;
- 42% of respondents felt that a net zero future is now more achievable than before the pandemic - mainly due to the changes in lifestyle that are already happening. 10% felt it was less achievable because of the economic impacts of the pandemic.

The survey findings have been shared directly with the County Council's Climate Change team, as well as with the Covid Recovery Group and Elected Members.

Formed in September 2020, Hampshire Perspectives is the County Council's online residents' forum – a diverse group of people who share their views to help the County Council to shape services and make decisions that are right for local residents. As yet, the forum is not fully representative of the Hampshire population, so findings are indicative, rather than generalisable to the county as a whole. For further information contact insight@hants.gov.uk