

Hampshire County Council Climate Change Progress Report

July 2024 – June 2026



Foreword

This report marks the conclusion of Hampshire County Council's 2020–2025 Climate Change Strategy and provides an important opportunity to reflect on the progress made over the past five years.

During that time, we have continued to play our part in responding to one of the most significant long-term challenges facing our communities, economy and environment. Climate change is now far more firmly embedded in the way the County Council plans, delivers services and makes decisions than it was when the Strategy was first adopted.

From investing in our estate, schools and transport infrastructure to supporting nature recovery, community resilience and public health, we have taken important steps to strengthen Hampshire's response to a changing climate.

I am proud of what has been achieved and grateful to the many staff, Members, partners and community organisations who have contributed to this work. The achievements highlighted throughout this report demonstrate that climate action is not the responsibility of any single team or service. It has increasingly become part of how we work across the organisation and in partnership with others.

Local government has a unique role to play. Although many of the factors influencing emissions and climate resilience lie beyond the direct control of any one organisation, councils have an important responsibility as service providers, place leaders, convenors and partners. By bringing organisations together, shaping long-term plans and supporting communities, we can help create the conditions for meaningful and lasting change.

This report reflects on the final phase of our 2020–2025 Strategy and the foundations established for the future. The summer of 2026 starkly demonstrated that climate risks are now as much a part of our present as our future. The UK experienced its hottest and driest summer months since records began, while serious wildfires destroyed landscapes and disrupted communities in the New Forest district and elsewhere across Hampshire, the UK and beyond.

Supported by the refreshed 2026 Climate Change Strategy, the Council's focus will increasingly be on resilience and adaptation, protecting Hampshire's residents, communities, infrastructure and natural environment in the years ahead.

There is still much to do, but this report demonstrates the value of long-term commitment, partnership working and practical action. Together, these foundations will help ensure that Hampshire is better prepared for both the challenges and the opportunities of a changing climate.

Councillor Nick Adams-King

Leader of Hampshire County Council

Table of Contents

Foreword	2
Section 1: Executive Summary	5
Monitoring and Reporting.....	6
Resilience	8
Section 2: Baseline emissions update	9
Hampshire baseline emissions.....	9
Hampshire County Council emissions.....	11
Section 3: Progress During the 2020–2025 Strategy Period	12
Decision making.....	12
Strategic Plan includes Climate Change target.....	12
Corporate Risk Register.....	13
Embedding Climate Change in Council Decision-Making.....	13
Embedding Climate Considerations in Procurement	14
HCC Estate and Operations.....	15
Emissions from the estate	15
Street lighting	16
Low-Carbon Construction and Schools Programme	16
Research and National Influence.....	16
Transport and highways.....	17
Waste and circular economy	19
Natural environment.....	20
Green economy and skills.....	21
Engagement and young people	22
Public Engagement through Libraries	23
Public Health.....	24
Adults Health and Care	25
Sustainable Extra Care Housing.....	25
Technology Enabled Care	25
Catering and Waste Reduction	26
Hampshire Pensions Fund	26
Section 4: Progress on networks and partnerships	27
Expert Stakeholder Forum	27
Climate Change Officers Group	27
Local Partnerships	28
Greening Campaign	28
The Environment Centre	28

Community Energy Programme	29
Solar Together	30
Section 5: Communications and resident engagement.....	31
Online climate information for residents	31
Engaging with underserved communities	31
Section 6: Summary and looking ahead	32
Summary and Next Steps	32

Section 1: Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out Hampshire County Council's ("HCC") progress on climate change between July 2024 and June 2026. While climate change reports have previously been published annually, the timescale for this report has been intentionally extended to align with the conclusion of the Council's 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy and a period of review during 2025, ahead of the publication of a refreshed Climate Change Strategy in 2026.
- 1.2 This report provides an overview of activity delivered during the final phase of the 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy. The information presented has been gathered through the Strategic Framework that supported delivery of that strategy, drawing together policy developments, programmes, projects and significant business-as-usual activity from across the organisation.
- 1.3 As a result, the report reflects the priorities, governance arrangements and reporting approach that were in place during the 2020-2025 strategy period and should be viewed as the final report on progress under that framework.
- 1.4 During 2025, the Council undertook a review of its approach to climate change to ensure that activity remained proportionate, evidence-led and aligned with the County Council's responsibilities, resources and core purpose.
- 1.5 The review recognised that climate change continues to present significant challenges for Hampshire. Rising temperatures, more frequent heatwaves, flooding, drought, severe weather events and coastal change are already affecting communities, infrastructure, public services, businesses and the natural environment. These impacts are expected to increase over coming decades, making adaptation and resilience increasingly important alongside efforts to reduce emissions.
- 1.6 The review has informed the development of a refreshed Climate Change Strategy that places greater emphasis on resilience, public health, adaptation, organisational leadership and delivering practical action where the Council can have the greatest impact through its responsibilities, assets and influence.

Transition to the next phase of climate action

- 1.7 The 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy was developed in response to the climate emergency and established two long-term strategic outcomes for Hampshire:

- Supporting Hampshire to become carbon neutral by 2050.
- Supporting Hampshire to become resilient to a 2°C rise in global temperatures.

To support these outcomes, the strategy focused on two overarching climate goals:

- Cutting carbon emissions from the County Council's own estate and operations, where it had direct control over assets and delivery; and
- Supporting and influencing partners, communities and residents across Hampshire to reduce emissions and build resilience, reflecting the Council's broader strategic and enabling role.

1.8 While the strategy included an ambition for carbon neutrality by 2050, delivery was guided by the carbon management hierarchy, which prioritised avoiding and reducing emissions before considering offsetting measures. As a result, activity during the strategy period focused on practical interventions that reduced energy consumption, improved energy efficiency, supported the transition to lower-carbon transport, encouraged sustainable travel choices, increased renewable energy generation and strengthened resilience to a changing climate.

1.9 This report therefore reflects progress against those strategic outcomes, goals and the Strategic Framework that supported their delivery. It brings together evidence from policy development, programmes, projects and significant business-as-usual activity delivered across the organisation during the final phase of the strategy period. A new reporting approach will be developed to support delivery and monitoring of the refreshed Climate Change Strategy from 2026 onwards.

1.10 During the reporting period, services across the Council continued to deliver a wide range of climate-related activities through policy development, investment programmes, asset management, service delivery and partnership working. Key areas of progress include:

- Targeted investments and partnerships that supported low-carbon transport, nature recovery, community energy, and green skills.
- Progress towards improving the resilience of our services, communities and infrastructure in the face of increasing climate-related risks.
- Measurable steps to reduce emissions from our own estate and operations.
- Engagement with residents, schools, businesses, and community groups.

Additionally, a decrease was recorded in Hampshire's territorial carbon emissions, which comprise emissions arising from all activities across all sectors within the county's geographic boundary.

Monitoring and Reporting

1.11 The 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy established ambitions to support Hampshire's transition towards carbon neutrality by 2050 and strengthen resilience to a 2°C rise in global temperatures. Delivery was supported through a Strategic Framework which provided a structure for coordinating activity across Council services and gathering information on progress.

- 1.12 Measuring progress was inherently more challenging in areas where the Council's role was to lead, enable, influence or convene activity rather than deliver direct outcomes. Many of the factors influencing emissions and climate resilience, including household energy use, business investment decisions and individual travel choices, sit outside the County Council's direct control. In these areas, the Council's contribution was often through partnership working, planning, engagement, evidence gathering and support programmes.
- 1.13 The Strategic Framework was designed to bring together a broad range of programmes, policy developments and business-as-usual activities from across the organisation. Consequently, this report provides an overview of the Council's contribution towards the strategy's ambitions, rather than a direct measurement of all county-wide emissions and resilience outcomes.
- 1.14 Where the Council had direct responsibilities as a service provider, infrastructure manager, landowner, commissioner or employer, progress could be monitored through more specific operational measures and performance data. Examples included the management of the Council's estate, highways, transport programmes, waste infrastructure, flood risk responsibilities and aspects of public health and community resilience.
- 1.15 The 2020-2025 strategy reached the end of its planned lifecycle during 2025. A refreshed Climate Change Strategy has subsequently been developed to reflect the changing operating environment, increasing climate risks, Local Government Reorganisation, devolution and the County Council's evolving role.
- 1.16 Future monitoring and reporting arrangements will be aligned to the refreshed strategy and will place greater emphasis on risk, resilience, adaptation, organisational performance and delivery within the Council's areas of responsibility and influence. Reporting will continue to evolve as implementation of the new strategy progresses.

Resilience

- 1.17 Climate impacts such as heatwaves, flooding, drought and severe storms continue to increase in both frequency and intensity. These changes are already being felt across Hampshire, with more extreme weather affecting communities, services, and both the built and natural environment. Strengthening resilience to current and future climate risks therefore remains a core priority for the County Council, alongside ongoing work to reduce emissions.
- 1.18 During the final phase of the 2020-2025 strategy, increasing emphasis was placed on organisational and place-based resilience through the Strategic Framework. Services across all directorates have continued to embed climate risk considerations into planning, asset management and service delivery. This includes improving understanding of exposure to climate hazards, strengthening preparedness for severe weather events, and ensuring that long-term decisions support adaptation to unavoidable climate impacts.
- 1.19 A particular focus during the final two years of the strategy has been improving the Council's evidence base on climate risk. This has included work to identify and map vulnerability across the Council's estate and service assets, particularly in relation to flooding and coastal erosion and overheating, to support more informed decision-making and prioritisation. This work strengthens the Council's ability to anticipate impacts, manage risk, and target resilience measures where they are most needed.
- 1.20 Climate resilience is being considered across a wide range of service areas. For example, highways planning increasingly incorporates drainage optimisation, hotspot risk mapping and resilience standards for new schemes, while Adult Health and Care services continue to strengthen contingency planning and adverse weather response arrangements. Estate management programmes are embedding adaptation measures alongside essential condition works wherever appropriate, and public health activity includes targeted heat-health messaging and coordination during periods of extreme weather. Work with partners also plays an important role, including flooding support for communities, engagement through the Local Resilience Forum, and collaboration on energy planning and grid capacity to support long-term economic and infrastructure resilience.
- 1.21 Nature-based solutions and co-benefits are also central to the Council's approach, with progress on habitat restoration, Biodiversity Net Gain, tree planting and active travel all contributing to improved resilience while delivering wider health, environmental and social outcomes.
- 1.22 Resilience will remain a central strand of the Council's approach as it develops the next Climate Change Strategy. This will build on the foundations laid during the current strategy period, ensuring that Hampshire is better equipped to manage the impacts of a changing climate while continuing to protect services, communities and the environment.

Section 2: Baseline emissions update

Hampshire baseline emissions

- 2.1 Territorial emissions¹ for Hampshire are published annually by national government, with a two-year data lag. This year's report uses the latest available dataset, based on emissions recorded in 2024. For a deeper insight into the data collection methodology, further caveats about the data, and our scope of influence, please see our [baseline emissions report](#) that was written in 2022.
- 2.2 The Council will continue to monitor territorial emissions to understand Hampshire's wider context, although many of the drivers influencing these emissions sit outside the direct control of the County Council.
- 2.3 As seen in figure 1, there has been a steady decline in Hampshire's carbon emissions since 2005. Between 2005 and 2024, there has been a reduction in carbon emissions of 5,638.71 ktCO₂e², which equates to a 52.25% reduction in emissions. Since a climate emergency was declared in 2019, there has been a 1,160.49 ktCO₂e reduction in Hampshire's carbon emissions. This equates to 18.49% of emissions. Less carbon emissions were released in 2024 than during covid.
- 2.4 The 2024 data shows that transport (50.59%) and domestic energy use (28.61%) remain the largest sources of emissions in Hampshire (figure 2). This continues to shape where the Council focuses its enabling and partnership work, including community energy, transport planning, and support for household energy efficiency. Further data trends are available on the [climate change website](#).

¹ Territorial emissions are carbon dioxide emissions that are emitted directly within the County Council's geographical boundary, including industry, transport and energy production.

² CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent; emissions are expressed as the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same global warming impact as the mix of greenhouse gases emitted.

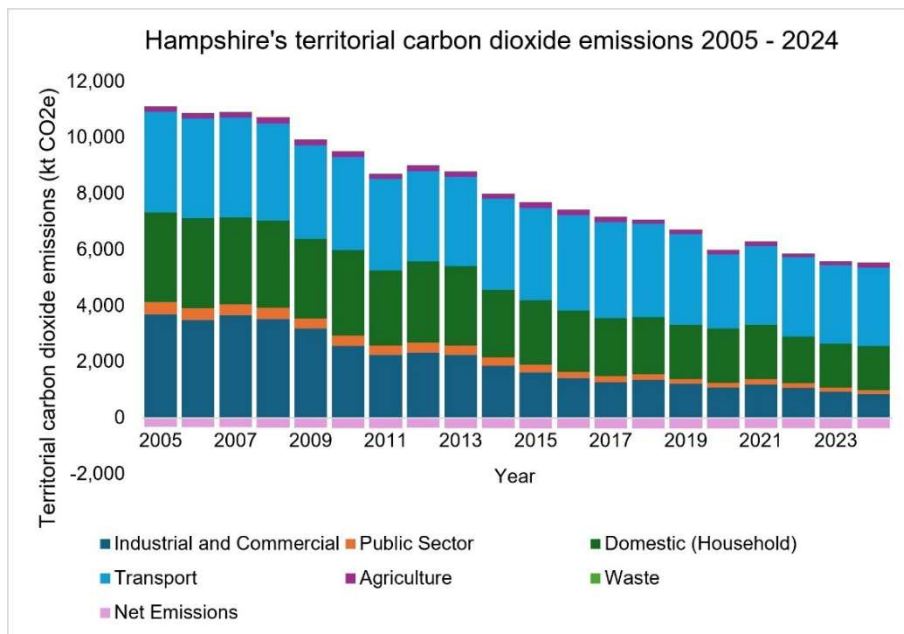


Figure 1: Hampshire's territorial carbon emissions from 2005 to 2024.

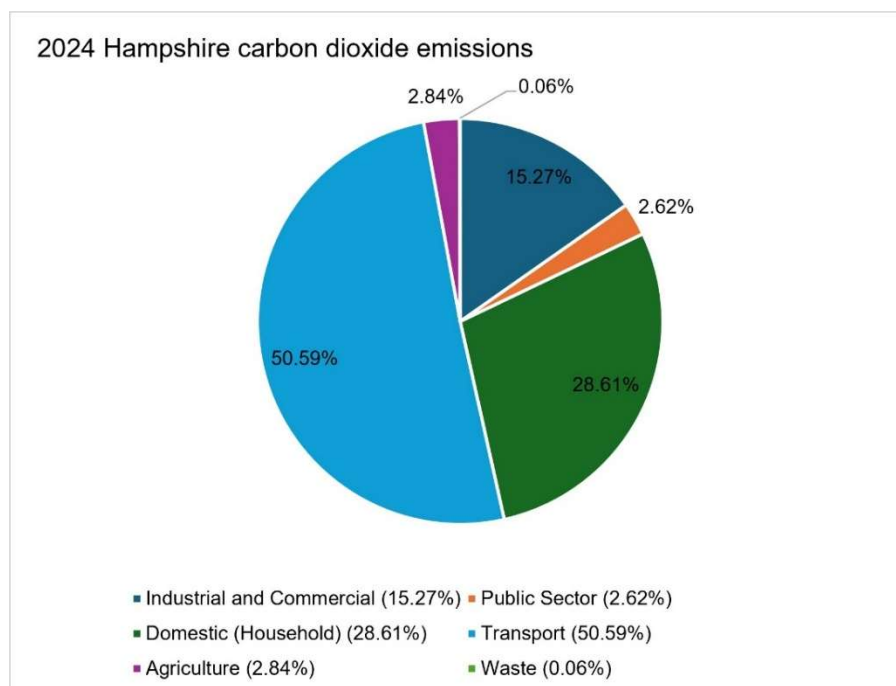


Figure 2: Hampshire's territorial carbon emissions breakdown for 2024.

Hampshire County Council emissions

- 2.5 Reducing emissions from the Council's estate and operations was a core priority within the 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy and Strategic Framework. In the period to June 2026, emissions from the Council's estate decreased by 12%, reaching 41,712 tonnes CO₂e across Scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from the estate, scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from purchased energy such as electricity, and scope 3 covers all other indirect emissions. More detailed information is available in the Council's [annual emissions report](#).
- 2.6 During the strategy period, the Strategic Framework included a dedicated programme focusing on both emissions reduction and climate resilience across Council services. This helped ensure that climate considerations were incorporated into the management of buildings, infrastructure, procurement, service planning and emergency preparedness.
- 2.7 Further detail on operational emissions, the energy performance of our estate is set out in the [HCC estates and operations](#) section.

Section 3: Progress During the 2020–2025 Strategy Period

- 3.1 This section summarises activity delivered during the final phase of the 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy. Information has been gathered through the Strategic Framework, which was used to coordinate activity and reporting during the strategy period. The section reflects key policy developments, programmes, projects and significant business-as-usual activity undertaken across the organisation between July 2024 and June 2026.

Decision making

Strategic Plan includes Climate Change target

- 3.2 The Strategic Plan '*Your Hampshire, today and for tomorrow*' includes the commitment to 'look after our natural environment, embedding our commitment to climate change action and climate resilience within our work'. The Strategic Plan also links to the Hampshire Pledge, in which HCC has promised to be a champion for Hampshire and our environment. The breakdown of this promise is as follows:
- Continue to prioritise the needs of our residents and Hampshire's environment in the decisions we make – including to help tackle climate change.
 - Support the development and delivery of green skills of the future.
 - Help ensure Hampshire's communities are fit for the future, by securing the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time.
 - Encourage communities to play their part in tackling climate change.
 - Look after, enhance and provide access to Hampshire's rich and diverse natural environment.
- 3.3 As a part of this pledge, we are asking Hampshire residents to:
- Explore and enjoy Hampshire's countryside and nature.
 - Engage with local conservation and 'green' projects.
 - Learn how you can tackle climate change and take steps to reduce your carbon footprint – and encourage friends and family to do the same.
 - Use greener ways to travel like walking, cycling and using public transport where you can – boosting your health, improving air quality and helping the environment.
 - Take care of and look after your surroundings.

Corporate Risk Register

- 3.4 Climate change is recognised as a corporate risk within the Council's Risk Management Framework. The Corporate Risk Register ensures that climate-related risks are systematically identified across both service delivery and capital projects, with a focus on impacts to local environmental resilience, including flooding and drought, and the Council's contribution to wider climate change, such as carbon emissions. It also captures risks arising from extreme weather events and their potential effects on residents and communities. This approach supports informed decision-making and strengthens the Council's ability to adapt services and infrastructure to the future needs of the population. The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed regularly and updated accordingly. The latest updates to the Corporate Risk Register can be found [here](#).

Embedding Climate Change in Council Decision-Making

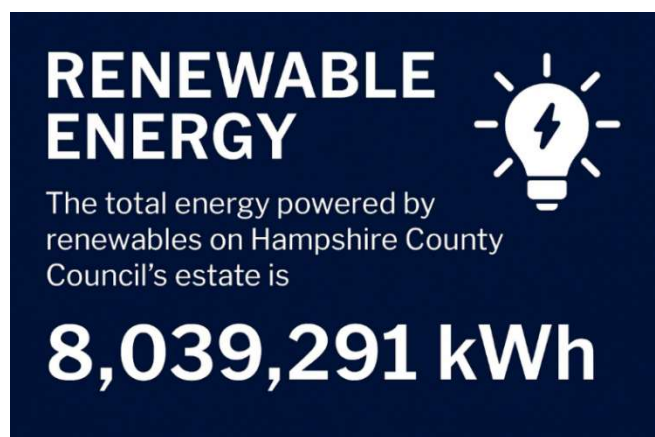
- 3.5 Climate change continues to be a key factor in how HCC makes decisions about services, investment and long-term planning. The County Council's Corporate Plan includes a commitment to support Hampshire's environment and help tackle climate change, both through our own actions and by encouraging others to play their part.
- 3.6 The County Council uses a Climate Change Impact Assessment, which has been mandatory for all public-facing Executive Member decision reports since April 2021. This assessment helps officers consider how their proposals may reduce carbon emissions or improve resilience to climate impacts such as flooding or heatwaves. It also ensures that climate considerations are applied consistently across all services.
- 3.7 Since July 2024, teams have received support to complete these assessments. This includes one-to-one guidance on using the adaptation and carbon mitigation tools, helping officers identify climate risks and opportunities early in project development.
- 3.8 Examples of where decisions have embedded climate considerations within decisions from this reporting period include:
- Local Bus Contract (King Barton): Predicted carbon savings of 1.56 tonnes CO₂e per year through increased public transport use.
 - A30 Basingstoke Active Travel Route: Environmental improvements including implementation of rainwater gardens, biodiverse grasses and perennial meadow seeding and bulbs within verges and surrounding areas are being discussed with various stakeholders.
 - North Whiteley Secondary School: EV charging points, solar PV, high efficiency gas condensing boilers with a heat system, and improvements to the local footpath and cycleway network will be incorporated to reduce carbon emissions created through the construction of the secondary school.
 - Minerals and Waste Plan Partial Update: Integration of flood risk evidence to strengthen climate adaptation within planning policy.
 - Adoption of North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030: climate change adaptation strategies from the Management Plan will be implemented across Hampshire during the five-year period.

- 3.9 Alongside the decision-making tools, HCC actively embeds climate change awareness through a dedicated climate change module within the corporate e-learning. The module sets out the County Council's climate change strategy, introduces available tools and explains how climate issues affect different services. During a sample 12-month period between July 2024 and September 2025, 700 staff members completed the e-learning. The County Council also has a Climate Change SharePoint hub, which equips staff with practical resources, sector-specific guidance, case studies and support for using climate impact assessment tools.
- 3.10 The Strategic Framework also supported the integration of climate change into the Council's wider governance and decision-making arrangements. Through governance structures, staff support, climate impact assessments, risk management processes and procurement frameworks, climate considerations have continued to be embedded across policy development, service planning and investment decisions. This helps ensure that both emissions reduction and climate resilience are considered as part of the Council's core business and long-term planning.

Embedding Climate Considerations in Procurement

- 3.11 The Council strengthened the integration of climate change considerations into procurement and commissioning, ensuring environmental impacts are addressed from the earliest stages of purchasing and contract design.
- 3.12 In response to the Procurement Act 2023 and the updated National Procurement Policy Statement, the Procurement team introduced the Total Procurement Solutions (TPS) tool. This has enabled commissioners to factor carbon reduction, climate resilience and social value into relevant procurements, while improving the consistency and transparency of contract reporting.
- 3.13 Alongside the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy, these measures helped ensure suppliers actively support the County Council's climate objectives, and the potential climate impacts in all procurement contracts.

HCC Estate and Operations



Emissions from the estate

- 3.14 In 2025/26, emissions from HCC's estate and operations reduced by 12%, bringing total gross emissions to 41,712 tonnes CO₂e. This figure includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions³. A breakdown of emissions is provided in Table 1, with further detail available in the Council's published [emissions report](#).
- 3.15 During the reporting period, 118 buildings across the Council's estate benefited from energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures, including solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, LED lighting upgrades and boiler replacements. These improvements helped reduce energy consumption, lower operational emissions and improve the long-term performance of Council assets. Renewable energy installations across the estate generated a total of 8,039,291 kWh during the reporting period.

Table 1: The breakdown of HCC's estate scope emissions.

Data	Global tonnes of CO ₂ e 2025 to 2026	Global tonnes of CO ₂ e 2024 to 2025
Scope 1	21,050	23,216
Scope 2	10,062	12,627
Scope 3	10,600	11,673
Total gross emissions	41,712	47,517
Carbon offsets	0	0
Total annual net emissions	41,712	47,517
Intensity measurement: Tonnes of CO₂e per m² of the estate	0.029	0.033

³ Scope 1: direct emissions from Council operations. Scope 2: indirect emissions from purchased energy. Scope 3: selected indirect emissions from business travel, water, waste and energy supply chains. For more information visit: [Greenhouse gas emissions](#) | [About the Council](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)

Street lighting

- 3.16 In October 2024, following public consultation, the Council extended part-night street-lighting hours from midnight to 5am. This change is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by around 500 tonnes per year and cut energy consumption by 2.2 GWh annually. This is part of our wider programme to manage energy use responsibly while maintaining safe public spaces.

Low-Carbon Construction and Schools Programme

- 3.17 Three new low carbon primary schools were completed in 2025 using timber structural systems built to the ultra-low-energy Passivhaus standard. These buildings significantly reduce embodied carbon through their timber construction as well as operational carbon through their ultra-low energy consumption, whilst also providing healthier learning environments.
- 3.18 Seven Scola recladding projects have been completed in this reporting period, each one significantly improving the learning environments for the pupils, whilst also reducing energy consumption and improving the buildings' resilience to overheating. This included a pilot project that adopted an innovative offsite manufactured timber structural solution to reduce embodied carbon, completing the project for 1/3 of the cost and 1/5 of the embodied carbon of a new-build equivalent. The outcomes of this recladding programme have been shared with the Department for Education and are informing their future approach to the sustainable refurbishment of the national school estate.

Research and National Influence

- 3.19 HCC continued to contribute to national policy on climate-resilient schools. Our joint research with the University of Southampton and Department for Education on overheating risk in school buildings was published in an international journal in May 2026 and cited as evidence by the UK Climate Change Committee in their Fourth Climate Change Risk Assessment for the UK.
- 3.20 HCC also continued to support the Department for Education as the only local authority on their Education Estates Strategy Group, helping shape long-term national policy on the national school estate, including our advocacy for retention and refurbishment over rebuild and our expertise on overheating risk.

Transport and highways



- 3.21 Transport remains the largest source of territorial emissions in Hampshire. During the reporting period activity focused on supporting residents to travel more sustainably, improving infrastructure, and integrating resilience into transport planning.
- 3.22 The key developments were:
- Electric vehicle infrastructure: HCC secured £6.66 million from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund to expand on-street residential charging. The charge points are due to be deployed in the 2026/27 financial year.
 - Active travel: The implementation of [Local Transport Plan 4](#) continued across the County, with Healthy Streets principles embedded within transport scheme development processes and highways maintenance programmes. Healthy Streets assessments became a requirement for larger developments, helping to ensure that health, accessibility and place-making considerations are incorporated from the earliest stages of design. More than 300 officers and partner organisations received Healthy Streets training, supporting a consistent approach to creating safer, healthier and more accessible streets across Hampshire.
 - Sustainable travel campaigns: In 2025, active travel campaigns reached more than 120,000 residents, with additional targeted campaigns delivered locally, such as in Eastleigh.
 - Highways resilience: Work progressed on the development of a Network Resilience Plan to identify and manage high-risk locations. Highways teams also continue to consider embedded carbon when selecting construction materials and maintenance solutions.
 - Design tools: Engineering Services began using an interim carbon calculator tool to help identify lower-carbon options in capital schemes.
- 3.23 Bus and rail passenger numbers in Hampshire continued to grow, supported by strong partnership working through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Bus journeys rose by 7% in 2024/25, an additional 1.6 million trips, while satisfaction increased to 90%, placing Hampshire 9th nationally. Rail use also increased by around 11% (3 million extra journeys). These improvements reflect ongoing

collaboration with operators to enhance service quality, accessibility and integration. Shifting from car travel delivers significant environmental benefits, with buses reducing emissions by around 40–50% per journey and rail by 60–80%.

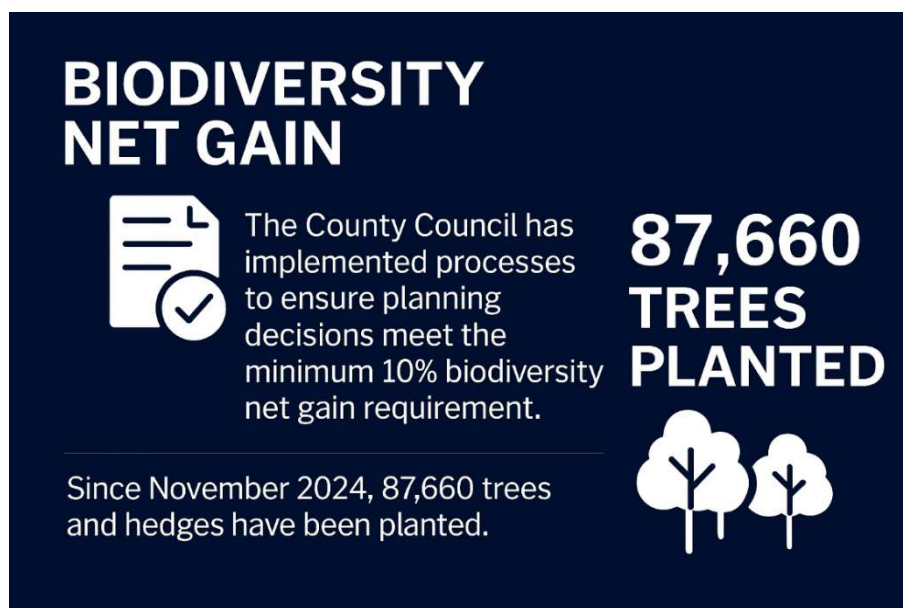
- 3.24 Progress on decarbonising the bus fleet is accelerating. A partnership with First Bus and Portsmouth City Council has introduced 64 zero-emission electric buses in Fareham, Gosport and parts of Portsmouth, alongside further investment from Stagecoach and Go South Coast, with more vehicles planned. Supported by BSIP funding for charging infrastructure, this is unlocking wider private investment and aligns with the Hampshire Local Transport Plan (2024) and Climate Change Strategy. Electric buses can save 40–50 tonnes of CO₂ annually compared to diesel, with deployment focused in urban areas to maximise air quality and public health benefits.
- 3.25 These actions all contribute to reducing transport emissions and improving resilience in the face of more frequent extreme weather events.

Waste and circular economy



- 3.26 The Council continues to work with partners to reduce waste, increase recycling, and support a more circular economy across Hampshire.
- 3.27 Key developments during the reporting period include:
- **New Joint Waste Strategy:** HCC, working with Project Integra, has progressed a new joint Waste Strategy for Hampshire. The strategy will include carbon metrics to support long-term monitoring and reduction of waste-related emissions.
 - **Investment in recycling infrastructure:** HCC, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council are jointly investing £50 million in a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), which will process all dry mixed recycling, including mixed plastics and cartons, from 2028.
 - **Food waste recycling:** Local anaerobic digestion facilities are now being used to process food waste collected by districts, supporting the national shift towards separate food waste collection. Over 27,000 tonnes of household food waste have already been diverted to these facilities since 2024, providing an indicative saving of 81 tonnes CO₂e.
 - **Community and resident support:** Initiatives to support residents and communities to reduce their household waste have engaged 23,500 people, with attributable savings of over 225 tonnes of waste and 425 tonnes of CO₂e. These figures are based on reported impacts only; it is likely that actual reductions are higher.
- 3.28 These initiatives aim to reduce emissions from waste, increase recycling rates, and support more sustainable use of materials across the county.

Natural environment



3.29 Protecting and restoring nature plays a vital role in reducing emissions, increasing resilience, and supporting Hampshire's long-term environmental health. Between July 2024 and June 2026, HCC has continued to deliver and support work that improves biodiversity, enhances habitats and strengthens natural resilience.

3.30 Key achievements include:

- Green Flag Awards: Five of Hampshire's country parks: Lepe, River Hamble, Royal Victoria, Queen Elizabeth and Staunton; retained their Green Flag status for 2025/26, recognising high standards in visitor experience, environmental management and conservation. Further information about the Green Flag awards can be found [here](#).
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#): The Hampshire LNRS was published on 8 December 2025, providing a shared framework that identifies local priorities for habitat restoration and nature-based solutions. It supports funding decisions, planning processes and partnership activity.
- Biodiversity Net Gain: New national requirements came into effect in spring 2024, and the County Council has implemented processes to ensure planning decisions meet the minimum 10% biodiversity net gain requirement. A cross-Council working group is supporting consistent delivery.
- Hampshire Forest Partnership: Since November 2024, the Partnership has coordinated the planting of 87,660 trees and hedges, contributing towards the goal of one million trees across Hampshire by 2050.
- Pollinator initiatives: Work continues to support pollinators, including development of a county-wide Pollinator Strategy and delivery of the Parish Pollinator Pledge,

which helps communities map and improve habitats for bees and other pollinating species.

- Flood and water resilience: Updates to the flooding Community Toolkit and continued work on Catchment Management Action Plans support communities and services to manage increasing flood risk.
- National Landscape Management Plans: All three National Landscape Management Plans in Hampshire were updated with strengthened climate change content.

Green economy and skills

3.31 Developing green skills and supporting a low-carbon economy are essential for Hampshire's long-term prosperity. Over the past year, HCC has worked with partners to strengthen the county's skills system, support low-carbon industries and encourage sustainable employment.

3.32 The key developments were:

- Hampshire Skills Partnership: The Partnership brings together education providers, businesses and local authorities to ensure training and skills provision meets changing employer needs. Green skills are now a core focus.
- [Hampshire Skills Strategy](#): Published in December 2025, the Strategy is the key deliverable from the Hampshire Skills Partnership. It sets out priorities for improving skills across the County, including support for low-carbon sectors and opportunities for inclusive growth. Within the strategy green skills are identified as a cross-cutting transferable skill for multiple sectors.
- Skills Bootcamps: £1.5 million of Central Government funded investment supported Bootcamps in retrofit, air source heat pumps and electric vehicle maintenance. More than 300 people have undertaken a green Skills Bootcamp to date.
- Get Hampshire Working Plan: This plan connects health, employment and skills support. It includes actions to build capacity for low-carbon sectors and promote green career pathways

Engagement and young people



3.33 Children and young people play an important role in shaping Hampshire's future, and the Council continues to support schools and pupils to develop their understanding of climate change, sustainability and the actions that can help build healthier and more resilient communities.

3.34 Highlights from the report period were:

- Climate Ambassador Programme: Two in-person Climate Action Planning events and one online event were held in 2025, with 76 schools taking part.
- Climate Unity Conference: On 28 January 2026, the County hosted the virtual Climate Unity Conference, attended by 70 schools and over 4,000 pupils. The event celebrated the voices of young people and showcased climate action projects from schools across Hampshire.
- School resources and training:
 - Sustainability resources have been made available for schools.
 - Training for school governors now includes sustainability and climate change.
 - Primary and secondary sustainability magazines continue to be published twice a year, sharing good practice from across Hampshire schools.
- Hampshire's Travel Planning Team delivered a range of active and sustainable travel programmes, with 156 schools and 41,000 participants registered for Walktober in October 2024.
- [The Clean Air Challenge Week](#): Between 15 to 19 June 2025, primary school pupils were encouraged to walk, wheel, scoot and cycle to help promote the benefits of active travel and cleaner air. A total of 15,799 pupils participated.
- Clean Air Day: Held on 19 June 2025, the event provided secondary school pupils with opportunities to learn about the causes and impacts of air pollution and the actions that can help improve air quality. A total of 10,467 pupils participated.

- 3.35 These activities demonstrate strong engagement from Hampshire's education community and helped raise awareness of sustainability, health, air pollution and climate resilience. They also supported children and young people to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing climate.

Public Engagement through Libraries



- 3.36 The Library Service continues to play a significant role in community-based climate engagement, providing accessible, practical opportunities for residents of all ages to learn about sustainability, nature and climate change.
- 3.37 Key achievements this year include:
- Green Libraries Network: Hampshire Library Service remained an active member of the national Green Libraries initiative, with trained Climate Change Champions supporting local activities and engagement.
 - Bridgemark Green Library: Following its launch as Hampshire's first Green Library in December 2023, Bridgemark Library continued to serve as a showcase for sustainable building improvements and community engagement during the reporting period. The library features energy-efficiency measures, renewable energy generation through rooftop solar panels and an air source heat pump, alongside climate-themed displays, specialist book collections and community activities focused on sustainability and nature. Its nature garden, events programme and volunteering opportunities continue to provide practical ways for residents to engage with environmental issues and learn about climate change in a local and accessible setting.
 - Clothing and uniform exchanges: Libraries continue to run popular exchanges for coats, wellington boots, school uniforms and World Book Day outfits, this supports reuse, reducing waste, and helping families with everyday costs.

- **Green and Thrifty Fortnight:** Green and Thrifty Fortnight: This annual programme provided free activities promoting reuse, repair and sustainable living, helping residents reduce waste, save money and build practical skills for a more resilient future. In 2025, branches hosted over 75 events, attended by 1,852 residents.

Public Health



- 3.38 Public Health plays a key role in supporting communities to prepare for and respond to climate-related health impacts. Over the past year, the service has delivered training, strengthened partnerships and supported place-based action.
- 3.39 Key actions which have helped communities to stay healthy as climate risks increase and ensure health considerations are embedded in local planning and policy achievements were:
- **Leadership and training:**
 - A session on the health impacts of climate change was delivered to Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group in November 2024.
 - Training on the health impacts of climate change has also been provided to East Hampshire District Council and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, with further sessions planned for councillors.
 - Following inclusion of climate change as one of three core themes in the updated Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a place assembly was held in June with over 70 attendees who provided comments and suggestions that have been consolidated into an action plan to be shared at the health and wellbeing board in December.
 - In June 2025, the Hampshire Place Assembly focused on raising awareness and developing actions on the three priority areas in the Year of Health and Wellbeing: physical activity, mental wellbeing, and childhood obesity. Over 70

people attended, representing the NHS, Districts & Boroughs, the Voluntary and Community Sector and HCC.

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Climate change is now one of three core themes in the refreshed Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (June 2025).
- Active travel and air quality: Public Health continued to support district authorities with air-quality work and delivered two major active travel campaigns, including “Life is better by bike”, which reached over 120,000 residents, and is complementary to the projects and campaigns undertaken by the Transport team.
- Building on the previous pilot of the active travel grant, in which four district councils were awarded funding to deliver projects to increase participation in active travel, all 11 district councils were awarded a grant to deliver an active travel project. Projects will include a variety of interventions such as cycle training for adults and children, led rides, walking and wheeling festivals and creation of school bus bikes.
- Planning for extreme weather: The summer heat health alert response continued to provide timely public information. Updates have been made to adverse weather plans based on lessons from a Directorate-wide exercise in November 2025.
- Reducing inequalities: The Hampshire Food Alliance is now active, with six local food partnerships established and three more in development. A climate and health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter was published, mapping vulnerable populations to support targeted adaptation.

Adults Health and Care

- 3.40 Adults’ Health and Care continued to work with care providers and partners to build climate resilience into service delivery. This included closer collaboration with housing providers through the Supported Accommodation Strategy, with a focus on refurbishing existing buildings to improve energy performance.

Sustainable Extra Care Housing

- 3.41 The new Bulmer House Extra Care scheme in Petersfield, approved in 2023 and started on-site in 2025, is being built to a “Very Good” BREEAM standard. The building incorporates air-source heat pumps, mechanical ventilation heat recovery, solar PV panels and green roofs, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering operational emissions.

Technology Enabled Care

- 3.42 Technology Enabled Care supported around 14,000 people this year, helping reduce the need for more carbon-intensive forms of care such as emergency call-outs and frequent domiciliary visits. The service also:
- Responded to around 280 fire alerts, helping to prevent property damage and risk to life.
 - Reduced plastic waste through supplier return schemes.
 - Lowered travel miles by using scheduling software to optimise routes.

- Worked with suppliers committed to reducing carbon impacts in manufacturing.

Catering and Waste Reduction

- 3.43 HCC Care continued to demonstrate strong ambition in reducing its impact on climate change by accelerating the shift to low-carbon operations across older adult services. During the year, ageing catering equipment was replaced with modern, energy-efficient electric alternatives, alongside the installation of solar PV across 12 operational buildings. Sustainable food initiatives, including the wider introduction of “Meat Free Mondays,” further reduced the carbon footprint of food provision.
- 3.44 Progress was also made in cutting waste and supporting the circular economy. Improved waste segregation, enhanced recycling facilities and staff training increased recycling rates and reduced general waste, while long-standing initiatives such as the Magpie Project at Woodlands Resource Centre showcased the value of service-led, community-focused recycling.
- 3.45 Through continued engagement with corporate sustainability programmes and practical action at service level, HCC Care is steadily decarbonising its operations, improving resource efficiency and embedding environmental responsibility into everyday care delivery.

Hampshire Pensions Fund

- 3.46 HCC is a member of the Hampshire Pensions Fund. The Hampshire Pension Fund recognises climate change as the single most important environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk that could impact on long term investment performance. During 2025, the Fund surveyed Pension Fund members and employers to understand their views on Responsible Investment (RI). Respondents identified tackling climate change as their top priority, reinforcing the Fund’s focus on climate risk. In response, the Panel and Board have continued to embed sustainability into the investment strategy, including setting a target to allocate over 30% of alternative investments to sustainable or impact opportunities by 2026.
- 3.47 The Fund has strengthened its diversified investment approach while supporting environmental outcomes. A 2.5% allocation to timberland provides portfolio resilience and access to high-quality, internationally verified carbon offsets through afforestation, improved forest management, and restoration projects. During 2024/25, Redington assessed the Fund’s climate risk and found it remains resilient under a range of scenarios, reflecting both its diversified asset base and its reduced exposure to fossil fuels.
- 3.48 These actions have delivered measurable results. The Fund has reduced the carbon footprint of its equity investments (Scope 1 and 2 emissions³) by over 35% in the past two years while maintaining strong long-term return potential. Over the same period, it has reduced fossil fuel exposure and increased investment in renewable energy. The Fund continues to track and report progress to ensure it meet its commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across all scopes by 2050.

Section 4: Progress on networks and partnerships

- 4.1 Throughout the reporting period, partnership working played an important role in supporting Hampshire's response to climate change. Many of the most significant opportunities and challenges relating to emissions reduction, resilience and adaptation require action across multiple organisations and sectors. The Council therefore continued to work with public sector partners, community organisations, businesses and specialist networks to share evidence, coordinate activity and support action in areas where delivery sits beyond the County Council's direct control. This included work to support community resilience, domestic energy efficiency, nature recovery, public health and the wider transition to a climate-resilient Hampshire

Expert Stakeholder Forum

- 4.2 Between July 2024 and June 2026, the HCC facilitated Expert Stakeholder Forum brought together 22 organisations including universities, community groups, activists and local businesses. It provided feedback on the County Council's climate programmes and helped promote community-facing initiatives.
- 4.3 Key topics discussed included renewable energy opportunities, underserved communities, and the Hampshire 2050 Partnership. The Forum also played a role in shaping recommendations for the Year of Health and Wellbeing and contributed insights to the development of the refreshed Climate Change Strategy.
- 4.4 As a part of the Hampshire Partnership Year of Health and Wellbeing, the Expert Stakeholder Forum was asked to provide recommendations of what they felt were the greatest issues regarding climate change and health. A workshop for the Expert Stakeholder Forum members was held to allow the stakeholders to discuss what they felt were the key issues for each theme. After the workshop, the Expert Forum collaborated to create a report that outlined the potential barriers relating to climate change and health and their recommendations on how these can be mitigated. This report was presented to the Hampshire Place Assembly in October.

Climate Change Officers Group

- 4.5 Hampshire County Council continued to convene and facilitate the Climate Change Officers Group, bringing together representatives from district and unitary authorities across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. The Group provided a forum for sharing best practice, coordinating activity and exchanging learning on issues including carbon reduction, climate resilience, community energy

and resident engagement programmes, helping to strengthen collaboration across the wider local government area.

Local Partnerships

- 4.6 HCC works in partnership with a range of external organisations that deliver community-based climate initiatives across Hampshire. The County Council supports this activity through leadership, collaboration and, in some cases, funding or facilitation. Delivery and operational decision-making remain the responsibility of partner organisations. Outcomes achieved through this work reflect collective effort rather than direct County Council delivery.

Greening Campaign

- 4.7 HCC continued to support the Greening Campaign, which received over £500,000 of National Lottery funding in 2023 to expand its work across Hampshire. Over the past year, the Council helped to strengthen the governance, monitoring and evaluation processes of the programme, including the creation of a Board of Directors and regular steering group meetings.
- 4.8 The programme supports communities to reduce their carbon footprint and improve resilience. Phase 1 encourages simple household actions to cut emissions, while Phase 2 provides expert-led support on nature recovery, warmer homes, health and wellbeing, waste prevention and seed-growing initiatives.
- 4.9 The County Council has continued to share campaign material through its channels and networks, helping to broaden the reach of the scheme.
- 4.10 Further information about the Greening Campaign can be found on their [website](#).

The Environment Centre

- 4.11 The Environment Centre (tEC) is an independent charity that offers home energy advice to residents across Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. tEC offers free phone advice for residents to help them with their energy bills and provides energy advice to increase the efficiency of residents' homes. Further information about tEC can be found here: [Home Energy – the Environment Centre \(tEC\)](#).

Support for Home Energy Advice

- 4.12 HCC continued its partnership with tEC, which provides free, independent home-energy advice to residents across Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. HCC offers signposting and support for funding bids as well as a Hitting the Cold Spots panel which approves funding to assist vulnerable residents to ensure they have sufficient heating in their homes.

My Home Made Better

- 4.13 Since April 2025, the County Council has supported the promotion of [My Home Made Better](#), a retrofit advice scheme delivered by tEC for residents able to pay for home improvements. The Council provided £20,000 towards local promotion and has helped to signpost the scheme, including to staff. The scheme's communications have reached over 700,000 residents, with tailored advice provided to more than 600 households across Hampshire.
- 4.14 This activity supports households to improve home energy efficiency and contributes to reducing carbon emissions through locally delivered, partnership-based action.

Community Energy Programme

- 4.15 Between 2022 and March 2025, HCC funded Community Energy Pathways (CEP) to support the growth of community-led energy projects across the county. During the contract period, CEP helped incorporate seven community energy groups, enabling them to plan and deliver local renewable-energy schemes.
- 4.16 Projects supported include:
- Caker Stream Solar – 4MW of community-owned generation within a 46MW solar farm in East Hampshire.
 - Gang Warily Recreation Centre (New Forest) – 30kW of local generation.
 - Testbourne Community School – 103kW installation progressing toward procurement of an installer.
 - BM Injections (private industrial site) – 116kW system in late-stage development.
- 4.17 These projects demonstrate the value of partnership approaches in accelerating local renewable capacity.

Solar Together

- 4.18 Solar Together Hampshire was established at a time when the residential solar installation market was less mature, helping residents access trusted suppliers and competitively priced solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage systems. The group-buying scheme was delivered in partnership with iChoosr Ltd, which undertook a competitive procurement process and vetted participating installers before inviting residents to register. By combining demand from households across Hampshire, the scheme provided homeowners with access to a competitive marketplace of approved suppliers, helping to increase confidence in renewable energy installations and accelerate uptake across the county.
- 4.19 In August 2024, the fourth scheme was launched. It delivered 801 installations, adding 3.32MW of renewable capacity and generating more than £5.4 million in private investment. These installations are expected to save around 16,870 tonnes of CO₂ over 25 years.
- 4.20 Since the programme began in 2021, 3,561 households installed solar panels through Solar Together Hampshire, with many also choosing to install battery storage. Across all four schemes, the estimated carbon savings over 25 years are approximately 75,646 tonnes of CO₂. The scheme played an important role in supporting residents to adopt solar technology when the domestic installation market was less mature. As the market has developed, consumer assurance arrangements have increasingly shifted towards Trading Standards' Buy With Confidence scheme, which provides residents with access to vetted renewable energy installers and trusted local suppliers.

Section 5: Communications and resident engagement

Online climate information for residents

- 5.1 Between July 2024 and June 2026, HCC's climate change webpages received 22,382 views. The Solar Together page was the most visited, with 4,799 views, highlighting continued resident interest in renewable energy opportunities.
- 5.2 The webpages provide residents with information on the Council's climate actions alongside practical advice to help reduce emissions at a household level.

Engaging with underserved communities

- 5.3 In 2024, HCC commissioned Action Hampshire to explore how underserved communities across the county experience and perceive climate action. The research was completed in October 2024, and the results were published as [Hampshire Communities for People and Planet](#) and involved engagement with 19 voluntary, community, faith-based and social-enterprise organisations and sought to better understand the barriers, opportunities and inequalities associated with climate action.
- 5.4 The study identified a range of factors that can affect people's ability to participate in or benefit from climate-related initiatives, including financial pressures, accessibility, awareness and competing priorities. The findings highlighted the importance of ensuring that climate action is inclusive and recognises that some communities are more exposed to climate-related risks and less able to respond to them.
- 5.5 The findings have informed wider discussions on climate change and health across Hampshire. They contributed to a growing evidence base demonstrating that climate change, like many public health challenges, does not affect everyone equally, with some populations facing greater risks from factors such as extreme heat, flooding, poor housing conditions and wider social inequalities. The work has helped strengthen relationships between the Council and community organisations and provides an important foundation for future partnership working, engagement and co-production.
- 5.6 The results of this work were shared with partners through Hampshire's health and wellbeing governance, helping to inform discussions on how organisations can work together to reduce climate-related health inequalities, champion the health and wellbeing benefits of climate action, and support adaptation measures that protect those most vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate.

Section 6: Summary and looking ahead

Summary and Next Steps

- 6.1 The 2020-2025 Climate Change Strategy established an ambitious framework for action across Hampshire. During the strategy period, the Council made significant progress in reducing emissions from its own estate and operations, supporting climate-related activity across services, strengthening partnerships, improving the evidence base for decision-making and increasing consideration of climate change across organisational policies, programmes and investment decisions.
- 6.2 The strategy also helped establish climate change as an issue that extends beyond environmental policy alone. Climate risks are increasingly linked to public health, infrastructure resilience, economic prosperity, community wellbeing, flooding, overheating, drought and coastal change. Throughout the reporting period, services across the Council continued to strengthen their understanding of these risks and incorporate climate considerations into planning and decision-making.
- 6.3 The experience of delivering the 2020-2025 strategy also highlighted the limits of what can be achieved by any single organisation acting alone. While Hampshire's territorial emissions have continued to fall and important progress has been made across a range of programmes and partnerships, many of the most significant drivers of emissions and climate resilience sit beyond the direct control of local government. Delivery of national net zero ambitions, investment in energy infrastructure, technological change and large-scale adaptation measures will require continued action by Government, industry, infrastructure providers and communities alongside Local Authorities.
- 6.4 The refreshed Climate Change Strategy therefore reflects both the lessons learned during the previous strategy period and the changing environment in which the Council now operates. It places greater emphasis on resilience, adaptation and public health, recognising that the impacts of climate change are already being experienced by Hampshire's residents, communities and services, with the greatest impacts often falling on more vulnerable groups.
- 6.5 The new approach focuses on where Hampshire County Council can have the greatest influence through its role as a service provider, infrastructure manager, landowner, employer, commissioner and strategic partner. Alongside continued efforts to reduce emissions, greater attention will be given to managing climate-related risks, strengthening community resilience and ensuring that essential services remain effective in the face of increasing extreme weather and long-term climate pressures.

- 6.6 Partnership working will remain essential to achieving Hampshire's long-term ambitions. As Local Government Reorganisation and devolution progress, the Council will continue to work with partners, successor authorities, the Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined County Authority, Government and wider stakeholders to advocate for the policies, powers, infrastructure investment and funding required to support a climate-resilient Hampshire.
- 6.7 By building on the foundations established through the 2020-2025 strategy, Hampshire County Council will continue to play its part in protecting residents, supporting resilient communities and ensuring Hampshire is well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing climate.