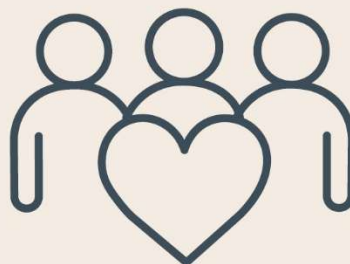


Climate Change Strategy 2026



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Introduction

Hampshire County Council exists to serve the people of Hampshire through the delivery of essential public services. Every day, the Council supports residents through education, social care, public health, transport, waste disposal, countryside management, economic development and a wide range of services that help communities to thrive. As set out in our Strategic Plan, *Your Hampshire, today and for tomorrow*, our priority is to provide high-quality services, support those most in need, and ensure Hampshire remains a prosperous, resilient and healthy place to live, work and visit.

Climate change increasingly affects our ability to deliver these responsibilities. Rising temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, flooding, drought and coastal change are already affecting residents, communities, infrastructure, natural habitats and the services people rely upon. The impacts are often felt most acutely by vulnerable residents, placing growing pressures on public services and the assets and infrastructure that support them.

This Climate Change Strategy supports delivery of Hampshire County Council's Strategic Plan. In particular, it explains how we will deliver our commitments to build climate resilience, work towards reducing emissions, protect and enhance the natural environment, support thriving communities and ensure essential services remain resilient for the people of Hampshire.

The UK Government has established legally binding targets to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. While many of the most significant levers for reducing emissions sit with Government, industry, energy infrastructure providers and wider society, local authorities have an important role to play through the services they provide, the assets they manage, the communities they support and the partnerships they lead.

Hampshire County Council remains committed to playing its part in supporting national climate ambitions. In a period of increasing demand on public services and continued pressure on public sector resources, it is important that we focus our efforts where they can deliver the greatest impact. This strategy therefore focuses on where the Council can make the most significant difference through its responsibilities, assets, investment, influence and leadership, while continuing to work with partners across Hampshire to support wider action.

The strategy sets out the Council's approach to climate change ahead of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). During the transition to new unitary authorities, we will seek to continuously improve and adapt our services, and work with our partners to strengthen Hampshire's resilience to climate change, in support of positive and inclusive outcomes for all our residents. Through this strategy, we aim to establish the intent and drive for climate action and resilience beyond the completion of Government's agreed programme for LGR, creating a foundation that can be carried forward by future authorities serving Hampshire's communities.

Our Vision for a Resilient Hampshire

Our vision is for a resilient Hampshire, where communities, businesses, public services, infrastructure and the natural environment are equipped to adapt to a changing climate, use resources sustainably, and continue to thrive for generations to come

As set out in Hampshire County Council's Strategic Plan, *Your Hampshire, today and for tomorrow*, we are committed to keeping residents healthy, well and independent; keeping people safe; giving communities the best chance to thrive; and providing innovative services that residents need and value. The Strategic Plan also commits the Council to building climate resilience, working towards reducing emissions and embedding climate action within our work. This Climate Change Strategy explains how we will deliver those commitments.

Climate change affects every aspect of life in Hampshire, from the health of residents and the resilience of our infrastructure to the condition of our natural environment and the long-term prosperity of our economy. Our response must therefore be integrated into the way we plan, invest and deliver services across the County.

Our vision is for a resilient Hampshire, where communities, businesses, public services, infrastructure and the natural environment are prepared for a changing climate and able to thrive despite future challenges. This will look like:

- Communities where individuals are healthy, resilient and prepared for extreme weather
- Homes, schools, workplaces and care settings that are safe and adaptable to rising temperatures
- Transport, energy, water and digital infrastructure that continue to support residents and businesses during periods of disruption
- A thriving economy supported by a skilled workforce, resilient infrastructure and healthy communities
- The natural environment that is protected, restored and valued for its intrinsic worth and its contribution to addressing climate change
- Resources and materials that are used efficiently, with less waste and greater reuse, repair and recycling across Hampshire
- Public services that remain effective and responsive as climate risks increase
- Strong partnerships and informed decision-making that embed climate resilience, nature recovery and sustainability into future investment and governance

Strategic Approach

This strategy builds on the foundations established through previous climate programmes and recognises that climate change is not a standalone issue. It affects how we plan and maintain infrastructure, manage our estate, support vulnerable residents, protect and enhance the natural environment, strengthen economic resilience and invest public resources. This reflects the Strategic Plan's commitment to give communities the best chance to thrive, keep residents healthy, well and independent, and ensure Hampshire has the infrastructure and resilience needed for the future. It is therefore our approach to embed climate considerations across the wide spectrum of our priorities and decision-making.

Climate change is also a public health challenge. Extreme heat, flooding, air pollution and severe weather can affect physical health, mental wellbeing and quality of life, with the greatest impacts often felt by older people, young children, people with existing health conditions and those already experiencing disadvantage. Taking a public health approach means understanding how climate change affects the conditions that influence health, including the homes people live in, how they travel, access to nature, the communities they are part of and the services they rely upon. We will therefore prioritise action that helps protect health, reduce inequalities and build resilience within communities, supporting the Strategic Plan commitment to keep residents healthy, well and independent and provide support to those who need it most.

Since the creation of the previous strategy, the environment within which we operate has changed significantly. As the Council continues to focus on delivering its core purpose and Strategic Plan priorities, it is increasingly important that decisions, investment and service delivery achieve multiple outcomes. Climate action can support this by strengthening resilience, improving public health, enhancing the natural environment, helping communities to thrive and reducing long-term costs.

Whilst we remain committed to supporting the UK's climate ambitions, many of the most significant drivers of emissions reduction sit within national policy, infrastructure systems, industry and wider society. Hampshire County Council's greatest contribution is through the services it delivers, the assets it manages, the infrastructure it maintains and the partnerships it leads. This strategy therefore focuses on where the Council can have the greatest practical influence, support local resilience and deliver the greatest benefit for Hampshire's residents, communities and environment.

While this strategy focuses on what Hampshire County Council can achieve through its current responsibilities and resources, it is also intended to establish the intent, evidence and practical foundations for climate action and resilience beyond the completion of Government's agreed programme for LGR, supporting future authorities to build on this work.

We therefore believe that the most effective approach is to focus effort where we have direct responsibility, influence and expertise, and where action can deliver the greatest overall benefit. Consistent with the commitments set out in *Your Hampshire, today and*

for tomorrow, our approach focuses on practical action that protects residents, strengthens communities, supports essential services and helps Hampshire thrive despite the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Our approach focuses on:

- areas within our direct control and influence
- actions that reduce air pollution and emissions and strengthen resilience
- protecting residents, communities and essential services from the impacts of climate change
- improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities
- interventions that deliver multiple benefits for residents, communities and businesses
- maximising value from public investment by delivering outcomes that support both climate resilience and wider strategic priorities
- supporting national climate ambitions through local action

Where additional funding, investment opportunities or new powers become available, we will seek to accelerate delivery and increase the scale of action wherever possible.

Co-benefits

Delivering wider benefits through climate action

Climate change is closely connected to many of the issues that matter most to Hampshire's residents, communities and businesses. The actions we take to address climate change can also improve health and wellbeing, strengthen economic resilience, support nature recovery, protect infrastructure, reduce inequalities and create better places to live, learn and work.

We will prioritise interventions that deliver multiple public benefits, ensuring that climate action contributes to wider outcomes including healthier communities, stronger resilience, environmental improvement, economic prosperity and long-term value for residents. By aligning climate action with broader organisational priorities, we can maximise the benefits achieved through public investment.

We will prioritise interventions that help to:

- improve health and wellbeing
- reduce air pollution
- reduce congestion and support active and sustainable travel
- conserve and enhance nature
- strengthen resilience to climate impacts
- improve energy efficiency and reduce long-term costs
- support a more circular economy by reducing waste, keeping materials in use for longer and improving resource efficiency
- support a thriving and resilient economy

Delivering change through partnership

Addressing climate change and ensuring Hampshire's communities are resilient to its impacts requires action across all sectors of society. While local government has an important leadership role, lasting progress will also depend on the actions of businesses, infrastructure providers, developers, community organisations, residents and the wider public sector.

We will continue to work with our partner district and borough councils, the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority, public sector partners, businesses and community organisations to support coordinated action, share evidence and expertise, align priorities and maintain momentum through Local Government Reorganisation, helping ensure climate resilience, nature recovery and environmental sustainability are embedded within future governance and investment decisions.

At the same time, many of the most significant opportunities for emissions reduction and climate resilience depend on national and regional policy, long-term infrastructure investment and sustained funding. We will continue to work with Government, the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority and partners across Hampshire to advocate for the policies, investment and funding needed to deliver change at scale.

Our approach is to use the levers available to us as a major provider of public services, significant landowner, employer, investor and strategic partner to protect Hampshire's people, places and prosperity while delivering practical and affordable action that supports long-term resilience.

Delivering Our Commitments

As set out in *Your Hampshire, today and for tomorrow*, the County Council is committed to supporting healthy and resilient communities, protecting vulnerable residents, providing essential services, enabling prosperity and looking after Hampshire's natural environment. Climate change affects all these priorities.

These seven ambitions describe the long-term outcomes we are seeking to achieve through our services, assets, partnerships and influence. Together, they provide a practical framework for delivering the Council's climate commitments during the remainder of Hampshire County Council's lifetime, while establishing foundations that can be taken forward by future authorities beyond the completion of Government's agreed programme for LGR.

We have deliberately framed these themes as ambitions because they represent the long-term outcomes we are seeking to achieve. The actions set out in the following pages explain how Hampshire County Council will contribute to achieving these ambitions through the services and responsibilities we hold today.

The following section explains why each ambition matters, how it supports delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan commitments, and the actions we will take through our services, assets, partnerships and influence.

Our seven ambitions for a resilient Hampshire

1.



Estate and operations

A resilient, efficient and lower-carbon estate that supports essential services, protects vulnerable users and provides long-term value for residents.

2.



Sustainable and resilient transport

A transport system that supports healthier communities, improves air quality, reduces emissions and remains resilient to future climate impacts.

3.



Nature, landscapes and water

A climate-resilient natural environment that supports nature recovery, healthy communities and adaptation to climate change.

4.



Public Health and communities

Healthier communities, with reduced inequalities and greater resilience to climate change.

5.



Waste and circular economy

A more circular and resource-efficient Hampshire, where waste is reduced, materials are kept in use for longer and waste systems remain resilient to climate change.

6.



Economy and skills

A resilient economy with the skills, infrastructure and resilience needed to prosper in a changing climate.

7.



Strategic leadership and a resilient Hampshire

To provide leadership and influence to ensure climate resilience, nature recovery and environmental sustainability are embedded within Hampshire's future governance, investment and strategic decision-making.

Ambitions

Ambition 1: Estate and Operations



Ambition: A resilient, efficient and lower-carbon estate that supports essential services, protects vulnerable users and provides long-term value for residents.

Why this matters

The County Council's estate is one of the areas where we have the greatest direct control and influence. Our schools, care settings, libraries, offices and operational buildings are essential to delivering services that residents, staff and partners rely on every day.

Climate change is already increasing risks to these buildings and the people who use them. More frequent and more extreme periods of heat, flooding and severe weather can affect building performance, increase operating costs and disrupt critical services. However, the most significant impacts are often felt by people. Overheating can affect the health, wellbeing and comfort of residents, pupils, service users and staff, while disruption to buildings and infrastructure can affect educational attainment, access to care, community services and support. These impacts can be particularly significant for vulnerable residents, including older people, young children and those with existing health conditions or additional needs.

Taking action across our estate and operations helps us reduce emissions while improving service resilience, reducing energy costs and creating safer, healthier environments for service users, pupils, residents and staff. The Council also has significant influence through the services it commissions and the goods, works and services it procures. By integrating climate considerations into procurement, commissioning and investment decisions, we can reduce emissions across our supply chain, support sustainable markets and maximise the contribution that public spending makes towards Hampshire's climate ambitions.

What we will do

1. Continue annual reporting of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (direct, energy-related and supply chain emissions) and publish progress on estate decarbonisation and resilience measures through the Climate Change Annual Report
2. Review the Strategic Asset Management Plan annually to identify opportunities to rationalise the estate, reduce energy consumption, lower maintenance liabilities and improve building performance
3. Develop and adopt an Estate Adaptation Strategy for Hampshire County Council's built estate, setting out a risk-based framework for assessing and responding to overheating, flooding and severe weather risks. This will inform

the prioritisation of investment and mitigation measures, taking account of asset criticality, the vulnerability of building users, and available resources

4. Maintain compliance with Minimum Energy Performance Standards across the corporate estate and develop improvement plans for buildings at risk of falling below required ratings.
5. Seek external funding to support decarbonisation and climate adaptation projects across the estate.
6. Continue to expand renewable energy generation across the estate where projects are technically feasible, financially viable and aligned with wider asset management objectives.
7. Use the Council's purchasing and commissioning power to reduce emissions, improve resource efficiency and support climate-resilient, low-carbon supply chains through the procurement and management of goods, services and works.

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Strategic Asset Management Plan](#)
- [Capital Programme and property strategies](#)
- [Corporate Procurement Strategy](#)
- [Organisational carbon reporting and performance frameworks](#)

Ambition 2: Sustainable and Resilient Transport



Ambition: A transport system that supports healthier communities, improves air quality, reduces emissions and remains resilient to future climate impacts.

Why this matters

Transport plays a vital role in connecting people to jobs, education, healthcare, services and opportunities. It also supports Hampshire's economic prosperity by enabling the efficient movement of people and goods, supporting businesses, unlocking investment and helping communities to thrive. Transport is also the largest source of carbon emissions in Hampshire, accounting for around half of all emissions across the county. Reducing transport emissions is therefore critical to supporting climate ambitions while maintaining connectivity and supporting economic growth.

A safe, reliable and resilient transport network is increasingly important as Hampshire experiences the impacts of a changing climate. Flooding, extreme temperatures and severe weather can damage infrastructure, disrupt journeys and affect access to services, employment and local businesses. More frequent cycles of intense rainfall and prolonged periods of hot weather can also increase pressure on highways infrastructure, contributing to issues such as potholes, road surface deterioration and higher maintenance requirements.

Investment in sustainable transport can deliver multiple benefits. Supporting mode shift through improved public transport, walking, cycling and better-designed places can reduce emissions and air pollution, ease congestion and support healthier lifestyles. By improving the resilience of Hampshire's transport network, we can help ensure that residents, communities and businesses remain connected and able to prosper in a changing climate.

What we will do

1. Monitor and evaluate the carbon impacts of transport interventions to support evidence-based decision making and prioritise actions that deliver the greatest emissions reductions.
2. Expand the use of energy-efficient LED streetlighting to reduce energy consumption, lower carbon emissions and improve the sustainability of the highway network.
3. Strengthen the climate resilience of Hampshire's highways by embedding adaptation measures and adopting best practice approaches to managing climate risks.

4. Apply environmental standards and sustainable design principles across transport and highway projects to reduce environmental impacts and support net zero objectives.
5. Increase the reuse and recycling of highway construction materials to reduce embodied carbon and support a circular economy approach.
6. Deliver highway tree planting and green infrastructure initiatives that enhance carbon sequestration, biodiversity and climate resilience, while providing shade and shelter to help communities adapt to extreme weather.
7. Improve the resilience of highway drainage systems and promote sustainable drainage approaches to help manage flood risk and future climate impacts.
8. Implement LTP4 policies which will promote mode shift, reduce emissions and improve resilience to climate change.
9. Continue to improve public transport connectivity through delivery of Hampshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan, supporting increased patronage and reduced transport emissions.
10. Support the transition to lower-emission and zero-emission bus services across Hampshire.
11. Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the transition to low-emission vehicles and improve access to community charging across Hampshire.

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Local Transport Plan 4](#)
- [Strategic transport plans and policies](#)
- [Highways Carbon Strategy](#)
- [Highways Asset Management Policy](#)
- [Highways Asset Management Strategy](#)

Ambition 3: Nature, Landscapes and Water

Ambition: A climate-resilient natural environment that supports nature recovery, healthy communities and adaptation to climate change.



Why this matters

Woodlands, rivers, wetlands, coastlines, farmland and green spaces help absorb carbon, regulate temperatures, manage flood risk, improve water quality and support biodiversity. They also provide places for recreation, improve health and wellbeing, and contribute to Hampshire's distinctive landscapes and economy. Hampshire's natural environment is nationally significant, with priority habitats covering around 21% of the county and approximately 38% of Hampshire falling within protected landscapes. Hampshire is also home to internationally important chalk streams, wetlands and coastal habitats.

Climate change is placing increasing pressure on these natural systems. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, drought, flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion are already affecting habitats, landscapes and ecosystems across Hampshire. Nature recovery and climate resilience are therefore closely linked. More connected and resilient habitats are better able to withstand climate impacts while continuing to provide the services that communities, businesses and wildlife depend upon. Effective management of water resources and ensuring climate resilience is considered through planning and development decisions also plays an important role in protecting Hampshire's environment and adapting to future climate risks.

As a major landowner and manager of countryside sites, public rights of way and stretches of Hampshire's coastline, the County Council has a direct role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment while helping communities adapt to a changing climate. Investing in nature-based solutions can help address climate risks while delivering wider benefits for biodiversity, public access, health and wellbeing.

What we will do

1. Develop an approach to managing coastal assets that helps communities and assets adapt to the impacts of coastal change.
2. Embed Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities within County Council strategies, policies and decision-making processes, and promote their integration across key local partners.
3. Promote biodiversity net gain and nature recovery through planning and development.
4. Monitor and report on the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities across Hampshire, supporting wider objectives for nature recovery and ecological resilience.

5. Implement the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2026), embedding climate resilience, water management, environmental restoration and nature recovery within minerals and waste development.
6. Update Hampshire's Local Flood and Water Management Strategy to improve resilience to flood risk and climate impacts.
7. Provide updated guidance and resources to help communities prepare for and respond to flooding.
8. Work with partners through the Hampshire Forest Partnership to support the ambition of planting one million trees by 2050.
9. Work with partners, landowners and communities to deliver nature recovery at a landscape scale, improving habitat connectivity, ecological resilience and the long-term sustainability of Hampshire's natural environment.
10. Support farmers and land managers to adopt sustainable land management practices and innovative technologies that improve productivity, reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience.

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) for Hampshire
- [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan \(2026\)](#)
- [Tree strategy](#)
- [Hampshire Forest Partnership](#)
- [Countryside Access Plan 2025-2035](#)
- [Local flood and water management strategy](#)

Ambition 4: Public Health and Communities



Ambition: Healthier communities, with reduced inequalities and greater resilience to climate change

Why this matters

Climate change is both an environmental challenge and a public health challenge. Extreme heat, flooding, air pollution and severe weather can affect physical health, mental wellbeing, independence and quality of life. These impacts are not felt equally. Older people, young children, people with existing health conditions and those experiencing disadvantage are often more vulnerable to climate-related risks.

Taking a public health approach means focusing on how climate change affects people and the conditions that shape their health. This includes the homes people live in, the places they spend time, the air they breathe, how they travel, their access to nature and the strength of the communities around them. By understanding these wider 'building blocks of health', we can take preventative action that reduces harm, strengthens resilience and helps address health inequalities.

Many of the actions that help people stay healthy also support climate action. Cleaner air, active travel, access to green and blue spaces, healthy homes and connected communities can improve health and wellbeing while reducing emissions and helping people adapt to a changing climate. Taking a joined-up approach enables us to deliver benefits for residents, communities and the environment at the same time.

What we will do

1. Progress implementing actions identified through the Local Authority Risk and Adaptation (LARA) Heat Toolkit.
2. Use JSNA data and evidence to identify climate-related health inequalities and target interventions to communities most at risk.
3. Deliver a climate change and health communications and training programme that promotes the health co-benefits of climate action.
4. Embed Healthy Streets, active travel, air quality and healthy place-making principles within transport, planning and regeneration programmes.
5. Strengthen organisational and community resilience to climate-related health risks, including heatwaves, flooding and emerging vector-borne diseases.
6. Support Schools with Climate Action Planning

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Public Health Strategy 2023 – 2026](#)
- [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Climate Change and Health Report](#)
- [Joint Local Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2025-2035](#)

Ambition 5: Waste and Circular Economy



Ambition: A more circular and resource-efficient Hampshire, where waste is reduced, materials are kept in use for longer and waste systems remain resilient to climate change.

Why this matters

The way we consume goods, materials and food has a significant impact on climate change, natural resources and the environment. Consumption accounts for around 40% of a UK resident's carbon footprint, meaning that reducing waste and using resources more efficiently are important parts of reducing our overall environmental impact.

A circular economy aims to keep products and materials in use for as long as possible through design, reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling, reducing the need to extract new raw materials and minimising waste. By moving towards a more circular economy, we can reduce emissions, protect natural resources, reduce environmental pollution and support more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

A more circular approach can also support local communities and the economy. Repair, reuse and sharing initiatives can help people reduce household costs, improve access to affordable goods and services, strengthen local skills and networks, and make better use of valuable resources. This can help address cost-of-living pressures while contributing to a more sustainable and resilient Hampshire.

The impacts of a changing climate may also affect the waste systems and infrastructure that communities rely upon. Hampshire therefore needs waste services and facilities that are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.

What we will do

1. Implement the refreshed Hampshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and work with partners to reduce waste generation and increase reuse, repair and recycling opportunities.
2. Embed climate change adaptation and circular economy principles into waste management planning, infrastructure investment and service delivery.
3. Prepare for and implement national waste and recycling reforms to maximise environmental and resource efficiency benefits.
4. Inform and empower residents to reduce their waste and recycle correctly.
5. Deliver a new Materials Recovery Facility by 2028.
6. Work towards sending zero waste to Landfill by 2030.

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan \(2026\)](#)
- [Hampshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy](#) (Update expected in 2026)

Ambition 6: Economy and Skills



Ambition: A resilient economy with the skills, infrastructure and resilience needed to prosper in a changing climate.

Why this matters

Climate change presents both risks and opportunities for Hampshire's economy. Businesses, workers and communities depend on reliable infrastructure, resilient supply chains, access to skills, healthy populations and a high-quality environment. Increasingly frequent extreme weather, flooding, overheating and resource pressures have the potential to disrupt economic activity, affect productivity and increase business costs.

At the same time, the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy presents opportunities for innovation, investment, job creation and skills development. Ensuring Hampshire has the workforce, infrastructure and capabilities needed to respond to these changes will be important to maintaining long-term prosperity and competitiveness.

A strong economy depends on more than business growth alone. Transport, housing, skills, health, digital connectivity, energy infrastructure and the natural environment all play an important role in enabling communities and businesses to thrive. Taking action on climate change can therefore support wider economic goals by improving resilience, attracting investment and helping create sustainable and inclusive growth across Hampshire

What we will do

1. Work with employers, training providers and partners to identify and address skills gaps associated with the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and circular economy.
2. Support delivery of the Hampshire Skills Strategy and future Local Growth Plan by promoting the workforce skills, training and capabilities needed to support sustainable economic growth and respond to climate change.
3. Use external funding opportunities, including skills bootcamps, to support the development of skills in low-carbon technologies such as heat pumps, electric vehicles and energy efficiency measures.
4. Work with regional and combined authority partners to ensure climate change, decarbonisation and resilience are reflected in future economic development, investment and growth plans.
5. Provide evidence and intelligence to understand future energy demand and grid capacity constraints, to inform work with partners to enable sustainable growth and investment in Hampshire.

Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans provide further detail on the actions that will help deliver this ambition:

- [Hampshire Economy Strategy](#)
- [Get Hampshire Working Plan](#)
- [Hampshire Skills Strategy](#)

Ambition 7: Strategic Leadership and a Resilient Hampshire



Ambition: To provide leadership and influence to ensure climate resilience, nature recovery and environmental sustainability are embedded within Hampshire's future governance, investment and strategic decision-making.

Why this matters

Many of the factors that will determine Hampshire's response to climate change extend beyond the direct responsibilities of Hampshire County Council. The resilience of communities, infrastructure, energy systems, the economy and the natural environment depends on coordinated action across multiple organisations and sectors.

The local government landscape is also changing. Local Government Reorganisation and the devolution of powers to the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) will reshape responsibilities across Hampshire. Over time, many of the policies, programmes and investment decisions that influence climate outcomes will sit with successor authorities, the Mayor and wider partners.

The HSCCA's areas of responsibility include transport, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and climate change, and rural affairs and coastal communities. As these functions develop, strategies referenced within this Climate Change Strategy, including Local Transport Plan 4, the Hampshire Skills Strategy, Hampshire Economic Strategy, Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire and associated climate, transport and environmental plans, are expected to inform future regional and mayoral priorities. Hampshire County Council will use its role within the HSCCA to help ensure these foundations continue to support climate resilience, nature recovery and sustainable growth across the region.

What we will do

1. Explore opportunities to work with the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority and future Mayor to embed climate resilience, decarbonisation and nature recovery within regional strategies, investment programmes and decision-making.
2. Work with the Combined County Authority on climate and environmental priorities during the transition to new governance arrangements.
3. Identify how climate considerations could be integrated into regional transport, skills, economic growth, housing, infrastructure and spatial planning initiatives.
4. Ensure climate evidence, data, partnerships and delivery experience are retained and transferred to support future authorities and long-term climate action.

5. Work with successor authorities and partners to maintain momentum on climate action through local government reorganisation.
6. Advocate regionally and nationally for the funding, policy change and investment needed to strengthen Hampshire's resilience to climate change.

Strategies and Plans

Strategies and plans that support this ambition:

- Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority priorities and investment plans
- [Local Transport Plan 4](#)
- [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan \(2026\)](#)
- [Hampshire Skills Strategy](#)
- [Hampshire Economic Strategy](#)
- and future Local Growth Plan
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) for Hampshire

Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

Performance Monitoring and Reporting

Progress will be monitored through a combination of existing service and statutory reporting arrangements, organisational performance measures and external benchmarking. The indicators below provide an outline of the key measures we will use to track delivery of the actions set out in this strategy and assess whether we are making progress towards our ambitions. They have been selected because they align directly with the actions and outcomes described within each ambition and reflect areas where reliable data is already collected, or can be gathered consistently, through existing operational, statutory and performance reporting arrangements. This approach allows progress to be tracked over time while making best use of established monitoring frameworks across the organisation.

Many of these measures are monitored through existing governance and reporting processes, including public health, transport, flood risk management, biodiversity, waste and organisational carbon reporting. Collectively, they support delivery of the County Council's wider Strategic Plan commitments and enable climate-related performance to be considered alongside broader organisational priorities. Performance and delivery will continue to be scrutinised through established corporate and service-based reporting arrangements, alongside statutory reporting requirements where applicable.

To provide a clear overview of progress across the organisation, we will continue reporting on climate change through an annual report to Cabinet. This will bring together progress from across services, provide transparency and accountability, and support the Council's wider Corporate Performance Assurance Framework by providing a cross-cutting view of how climate action contributes to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.

External Assessment

In addition to internal reporting, we will benchmark our performance against recognised external frameworks, including annual greenhouse gas emissions reporting and the Climate Emergency UK Council Climate Action Scorecards. These assessments provide an independent perspective on performance, help identify

opportunities for improvement and enable comparison with emerging best practice across local government.

Future Climate Change Annual Reports will draw on these external assessments, highlighting progress and considering relevant findings in areas that align with the Council's responsibilities, influence and priorities.

Together with internal performance reporting, they will help ensure the Council's approach remains evidence-led, proportionate and focused on achieving meaningful outcomes for Hampshire's residents, communities and environment.

Strategic Plan Commitments: Climate Change Measures

1. Keeping You, Your Families and Friends Safe **Estate and Operations**

- Annual Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions¹
- Number and capacity of renewable energy installations
- Energy performance of the corporate estate
- Progress delivering estate adaptation and resilience measures

2. Keeping You Healthy, Well and Independent **Public Health and Communities**

- Progress implementing actions identified through the Local Authority Risk and Adaptation (LARA) Heat Toolkit
- Public Health-led training and engagement on the health impacts of climate change
- Number of schools supported with climate action planning by Childrens Services
- Delivery of coordinated communications on heat health and other adverse weather events

3. Giving Your Communities the Best Chance to Thrive **Sustainable and Resilient Transport**

- Number of annual bus passenger journeys and % increase
- Modal share of trips by sustainable modes (walking, cycling and public transport)
- Delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure

¹ Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions include emissions from the Council's direct operations, purchased energy, and wider activities such as business travel, water, waste and energy supply chains.

- Number of LED streetlights installed
- Highway materials reused and recycled
- Delivery of highway tree planting and climate resilience measures

Nature, Landscapes and Water

- Trees planted and woodland creation supported
- Delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities
- Flood resilience and adaptation actions completed
- Improved biodiversity and habitat connectivity outcomes

Waste and Circular Economy

- Household waste generated per person
- Percentage of household waste reused, recycled or composted
- Progress delivering the new Materials Recovery Facility
- Progress towards making waste infrastructure and services more resilient to climate change

Economy and Skills

- Green skills initiatives and training programmes supported
- External funding secured for climate-related skills and projects
- Climate considerations embedded within economic growth, skills and investment strategies
- Progress supporting resilient energy, transport, digital and natural infrastructure that enables sustainable growth