

# SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S NET ZERO 2030 PROGRESS REPORT

November 2022



# Surrey county council's 2030 net-zero carbon programme

Surrey County Council (SCC) has committed to becoming a net

# Progress against surrey county council's 2030 net-zero target

## Overall progress

The SCC target for April 2022 was an emissions reduction of between 20% and 33% compared to emissions produced in 2019/2020. By April 2022 Surrey County Council had achieved a 27% reduction, which places us on track to meet the 2030 net-zero target.

However, there is a risk that emissions reductions may not be sustained over the next few years due to much of the reduction being the result of a change in behaviour patterns of staff due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is

too early to measure the impact of key-estate and fleet

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## Progress of key initiatives

## Buildings and renewables

Emissions from electricity and gas have reduced by 15% and 35% respectively, mainly because the carbon intensity of electricity<sup>5</sup> is reducing and impacts of Covid-19 mean that less energy was consumed. The retrofit and renewables programmes are still at an early stage; delivering emission savings estimated to be around 2% so far. However, completed projects are not yet reflected and are likely to deliver significant benefits. A strong pipeline of projects is being developed, including large-scale solar projects, which is broadly in line with our most ambitious net-zero trajectory.

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Programme	Progress summary	Risks, issues and mitigation
SCC estate retrofit programme  (Amber)	To date 21 buildings have had investment grade proposal surveys (IGPs) to determine the business case for decarbonisation, with funding allocated to survey a further 30 buildings. 6 buildings have had heat pumps, insulation and solar PV installed and solar	

<p>Renewables (Green)</p>	<p>11 sites have been shortlisted from the original 77 sites with potential for a ground mounted solar PV farm array. Officers are currently engaging with the Distribution Network Operator to determine suitability of connection to the grid. Once this is completed the design and business case stage will begin. It is envisaged that construction will start in the next financial year. A turnkey solar installer is currently being procured to install solar on SCC rooftops and school roofs.</p>	<p>Once sites are selected, development may be stalled by the planning process, the grid connection of the electricity supply or increased costs of essential materials or skills. Initial feasibility work is being conducted to reduce risks.</p>
<p>New build design standards (Green)</p>	<p>New build policy is being developed with a view to finalise and fully implement the policy in the next financial year. The independent living net-zero pilot has been approved by Cabinet, which is likely to massively reduce the bills of vulnerable occupants.</p>	<p>The additional up-front cost of sustainability requirements combined with increased cost of materials may have a knock-on impact on the</p>

## Fleet decarbonisation

Reductions in emissions from SCC vehicles were 48% in 2021/2022 compared to 2019/20, due to the Covid-19 lockdowns restricting all but essential business travel. Increases in emissions in subsequent years are expected until the fleet can be replaced with low carbon alternatives. It is too early to measure the impact of the fleet decarbonisation programme aided by the installation of new fleet-management software.

Progress

Summary

Risks, issue



Progress

KPI by 2025

Carbon Literacy Training programme, starting with the Corporate Leadership Team. The next step is to increase the recruitment of Green Champions across SCC to facilitate the take up of low-carbon behaviours amongst staff and



# Case studies

Figure 4: Phase 1 of the Council's retrofit programme



## Figure 6: Building Management Pilot

Consort House was used to pilot the Grid Edge technology that employs artificial intelligence to understand how buildings are used and optimise their energy performance as a result. The results exceeded expectations, achieving

## Figure 7: Surrey County Council Green Champions

Figure 8: Sustainable procurement

Environmentally sustainable commitments are now being included as part of selected appropriate contracts. In our Highways Maintenance Service contract, the successful bidder set out an electric vehicle strategy and commitment to plant 100 trees per year. The Highways Professional Services tender enabled a commitment to reduce embodied carbon by 60% reduction whilst increasing biodiversity by 10%. Updated Social Value webpages have been added to the SCC website which directs suppliers to achieve additional value in the provision of their services. Two of SCC's social value focus areas are 'tackle root causes of climate change' and 'invest in Surrey's greener future' which each address carbon reduction and biodiversity gain. Methods of using social value to further support environmental initiatives are being explored.

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