



<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 04 October 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Brian Milnes
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste, Bode Esan

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# Revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

## Executive Summary

1. The Council's Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature actions - part of the Being Green to Our Core corporate objective - have been independently reviewed by two external organisations. This report explains how the review recommendations have been reflected in a revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 at Appendix A for recommendation to the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment.
2. The revised plan addresses gaps flagged in two independent reviews of the council's climate and ecological emergency response. Gaps have been addressed by adding:
  - i. Information and actions, which are not new but were not included in the previous action plan
  - ii. new actions which can be carried out within existing resources by the Climate and Environment team
  - iii. new actions to be led by other teams, for which additional resource is available from a budget allocated for that purpose

## Recommendations

3. That CEAC recommend to the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment adoption of the revised plan.

## Reasons for Recommendations

4. CEAC's role is to advise Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions and provide updates on progress towards achieving agreed targets and outcomes.

## Details

5. The Zero Carbon Action Plan 2020-25 was developed following adoption of the Zero Carbon strategy in May 2020. It was expanded to include nature-related actions following the adoption of the Doubling Nature strategy in February 2021.
6. The revised plan addresses gaps flagged in two independent reviews of the council's climate and ecological emergency response. Gaps have been addressed by adding:
  - i. Information and actions, which are not new but were not included in the previous action plan
  - ii. new actions which can be carried out within existing resources by the Climate and Environment team
  - iii. new actions to be led by other teams, for which additional resource is available from a budget allocated for that purpose
7. The revised plan includes actions recommended in an independent review of the Council's climate and ecological emergency response work by Bioregional and incorporates good practice for climate action plans as set out in Climate Emergency UK's checklist.
8. The Climate Emergency UK report on the Council's plan was part of a review and scoring exercise of local authority climate action plans against a checklist devised by Climate Emergency UK with the support of Friends of the Earth, Ashden, the Centre for Alternative Technology and APSE Energy. Climate Emergency UK are a not-for-profit organisation funded through grants and donations to support campaigners and councils to learn from each other and lobby for further action to address the climate crisis. The climate action plans reviewed were those published and available to view on each local authority's website on or before 20 September 2021. The Climate Plan Scorecard was released in January 2022 and can be viewed online at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/councils/south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>.
9. The Bioregional report was commissioned by the Council in March 2022 following a procurement exercise for a review of the Council's climate and ecological emergency response drawing on information from a wide range of sources, (not just the climate action plan). The report, completed on 15 June 2022, reviews the Council's record of accomplishment in relation to the ten principles set out in Bioregional's One Planet Living framework. It can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/21562/bioregional-review-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council-2022.pdf>.
10. The Bioregional review found that the Council's activities and policies were particularly strong on: decarbonisation of the Council's own estate and

operations; biodiversity and green infrastructure; renewable energy; zero carbon planning policy for new developments; waste and recycling; business support and the local economy; and community engagement.

11. It suggested the Council could be more ambitious in the areas of: circular economy; regenerative agriculture and land use; reducing car usage in the district; climate justice; behaviour change around sustainable food; and embodied carbon in new developments.
12. The revised plan includes actions from the previous plan and new actions. All actions from the previous plan have been retained although in some cases they are subsumed into wider actions. Some headings have been changed to show more clearly how actions contribute to the strategy goals.

## **Implications**

13. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

### **Financial**

14. Financial resources for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been or will be assigned through the Council's usual budgetary processes.

### **Staffing**

15. Staffing for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been or will be assigned through the Council's usual processes.

### **Climate Change**

16. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### **Consultation responses**

17. The action plan has been the subject of internal consultation.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

18. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change and double nature.

## **Background Papers**

Climate Emergency UK Climate Plan Scorecard

<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/councils/south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>.

Bioregional review of South Cambridgeshire District Council's response to the climate and ecological emergency against the One Planet Living framework

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/21562/bioregional-review-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council-2022.pdf>.

Annual Progress Review of Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plans, 21 June 2022

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s127353/ZCDNAP%20review%20CEAC%2021%20June%2022%20FINAL.pdf>

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

[https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy\\_.pdf](https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy_.pdf)

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s116330/200521%20Zero%20Carbon%20Strategy%20Report%20to%20Council%20FINAL.pdf>

## **Appendix**

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 (2022-23 revision)

## **Report Author:**

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