

# Thanet District Council



## Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Climate Change and Ecological Emergency

# Initial action plan

A climate change officer group and a cross party councillor working group was established. An initial climate change action plan was written including both low carbon and biodiversity aims. Included Housing, Planning, Air quality, Facilities, the Fleet, Open Spaces and the Thanet Coast Project amongst others.

Thanet District Council – Climate Change Action Plan 1

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## Climate Change Action Plan 1- Actions underway and committed

We are using this action plan as an initial framework for our response to the climate and ecological emergency. This action plan provides an outline of actions already in progress and this is a working document.

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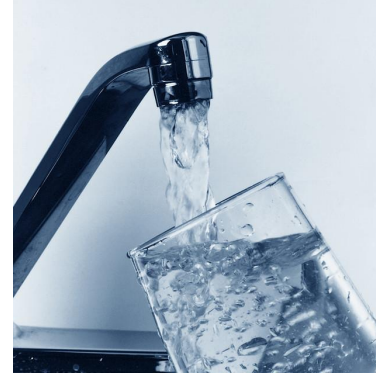
Areas of focus are those which are already outlined as headings within the Kent Environment Strategy.  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy>

*Originally created in 2020 after declaring a climate emergency on 11th July 2019.*

Housing			
Area of focus	Action	Intended outcome	Update March 2022

# Updates: Housing and planning

Solar pv  
and  
energy  
efficient  
social  
housing



Planning  
stipulations:  
110L instead of  
the standard  
125L

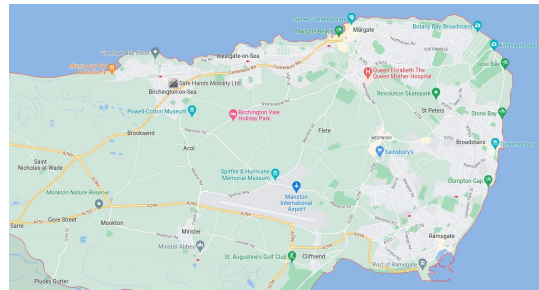
Planning  
stipulation:  
ev charging  
point for  
every 10  
units built



Planning  
stipulation:  
Biodiversity  
Net Gain

# Fleet and Facilities

Low  
emissions  
waste  
carrier  
vehicles



Reduced  
routes to  
reduce  
diesel use

LED  
lighting in  
offices  
and  
motion  
sensors

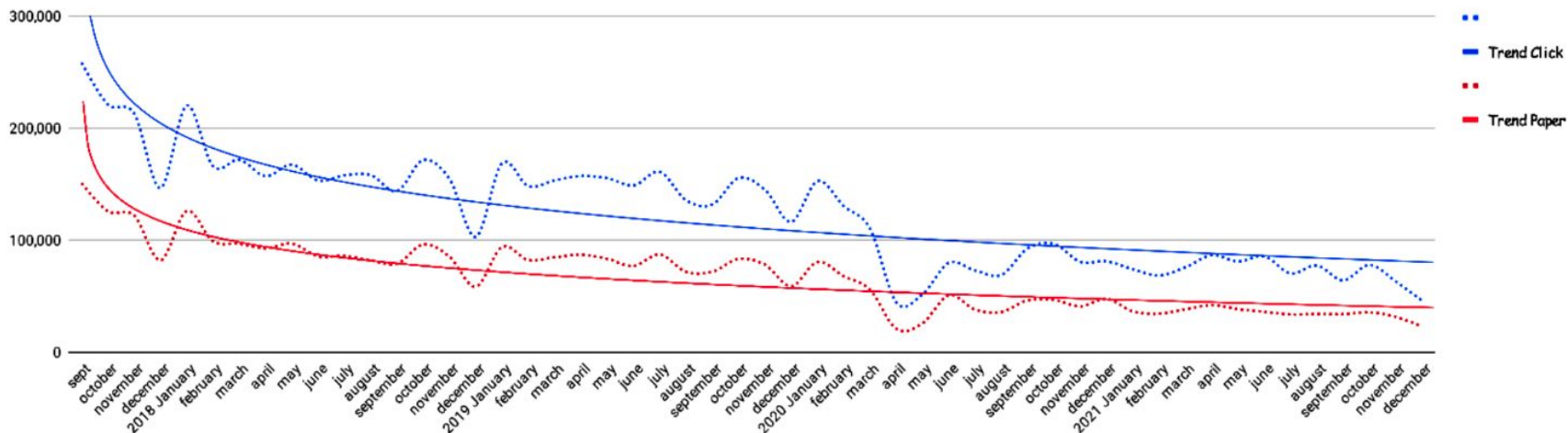


No plastic  
cups in  
offices or  
meeting  
rooms

# Reduced paper use

Paper use and cost of printing has decreased from £190k in 2013- 2017 to £76k in 2017 - 2022, due to reduced printing and use of google docs.

CLICK AND PAPER NEW PRINTERS





# Comms team

The comms team has supported all climate change and biodiversity initiatives, through pieces in the wave, scoop, social media and in the local papers.

## Reducing your carbon footprint in 2021!



Are you still undecided on your resolutions for the year? How about pledging to reduce your carbon footprint - it will help the planet, may save you money and make you healthier!

Your carbon footprint is made up of the food you eat, how you heat and power your home, how you travel and what you spend your money on. **Here are some suggestions of the types of pledges you can make:**

### FOOD

**Food is about a quarter of your carbon footprint. (It is 26% of the world's total greenhouse gases). The single biggest way to reduce your impact right now is to reduce your meat and dairy intake. Pledge to:**

- Eat less meat, especially beef and lamb as these animals produce methane (a strong greenhouse gas). Also, agriculture, especially the meat industry, is responsible for 80% of worldwide deforestation.
- Learn some vegetarian/vegan recipes and increase the fruit and veg in your diet
- Always make a shopping list and meal plan before you go shopping to avoid food waste



### HOME

**The electricity and gas we use to power and heat our homes produces about a quarter of our greenhouse gas emissions which make up our carbon footprint. Pledge to:**

- Change to a 100% renewable electricity supplier
- Investigate installing (more) wall and roof insulation for a better insulated home (contact our home energy officer for assistance with funding opportunities [energysaving@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:energysaving@thanet.gov.uk))
- Turn off appliances/heating/lighting/gadgets when not using them.



### TRAVEL

**Everytime we get into a vehicle (unless it is fully electric and the electricity comes from renewable sources) greenhouse gases are produced. Pledge to:**

- Walk/cycle where possible and get fit!
- Adapt your future commute to be car free.
- Pledge to reduce your future flying ([flightfree.co.uk](http://flightfree.co.uk))



### PURCHASES

**Energy and emissions go into producing every new product and item, so buying new things comes with a high carbon cost. Pledge to:**

- Always consider if you really need to purchase an item before you buy it.
- Hire/borrow items e.g. gardening/DIY tools
- Share items between neighbours/family members e.g. puzzles/computer games/tools.
- Buy pre loved items from charity shops or social media groups (e.g. [Freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org))
- Refrain from buying something for a month or even a whole year e.g. pledge to not buy brand new clothes (apart from underwear maybe!).



# Air quality and transport

Thanet's air quality meets all the UK standards now.

Fast charge ev charging points have been installed at Market Street Margate and Albion Rd, Birchington and additional funding is being sought.

Policies have been added to the local plan to reduce reliance on cars e.g. ensuring developments will be close to train stations or on cycle and bus routes.



# Home Energy Officer

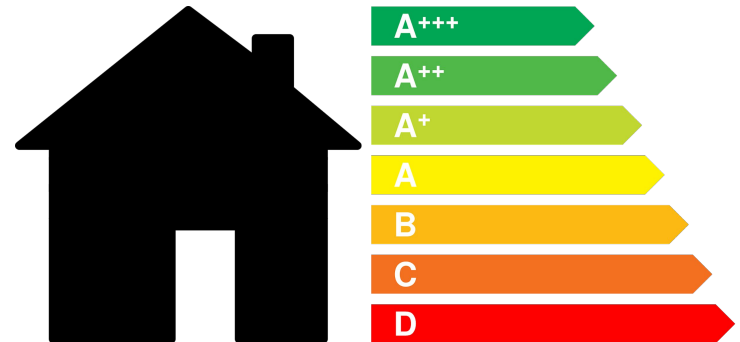
Help email for anyone concerned with their bills:

[energysaving@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:energysaving@thanet.gov.uk)

Or there is a contact form on the website:

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/energyinthehome/>

Advice on grants, schemes and funding  
for retrofitting insulation and energy efficiency  
measures.





# Climate Change Officer

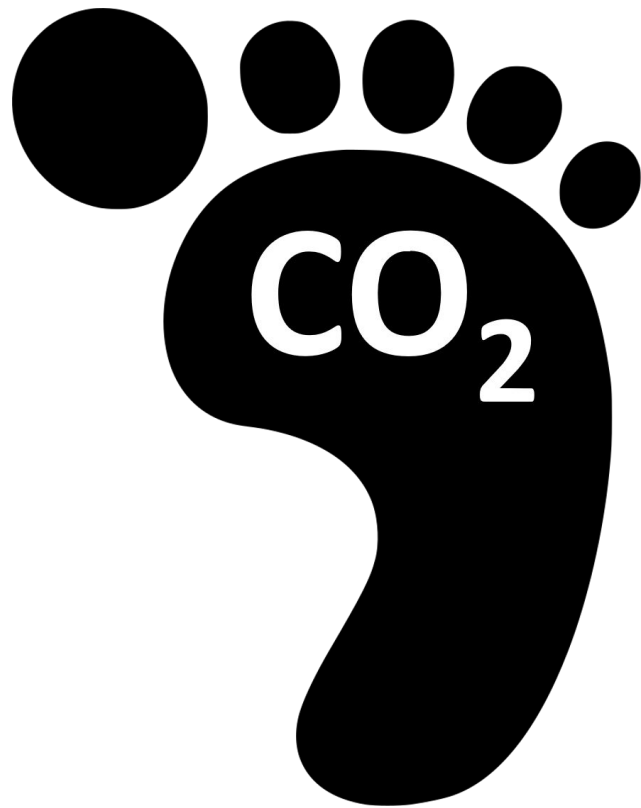
Climate change advice and guidance

Calculating our carbon footprint

Coordinating climate changes communication

Creating a Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan

Creating a Tree and Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan

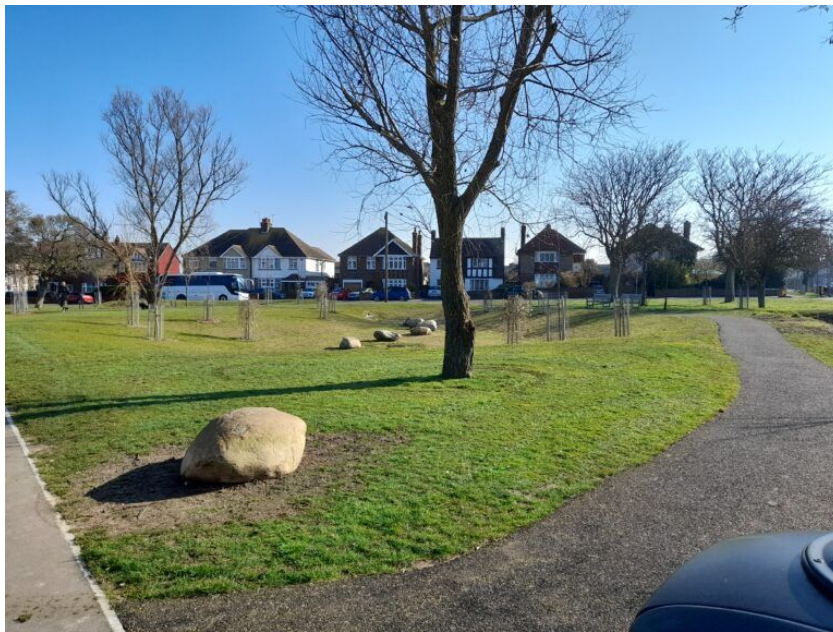


# Tree planting



# George V park, Margate

A small green was transformed into a biodiverse area which can hold large volumes of surface water during downpours. These dipped areas turn into ponds and prevent overwhelming the combined sewage system.



# Litter Education Officer

Works with schools and community groups

Organises activities for the community and council

Runs the sustainability forum for local groups  
interested in litter picking including Rise Up Clean Up.



# Thanet Coast Project

Online seashore safaris during the pandemic

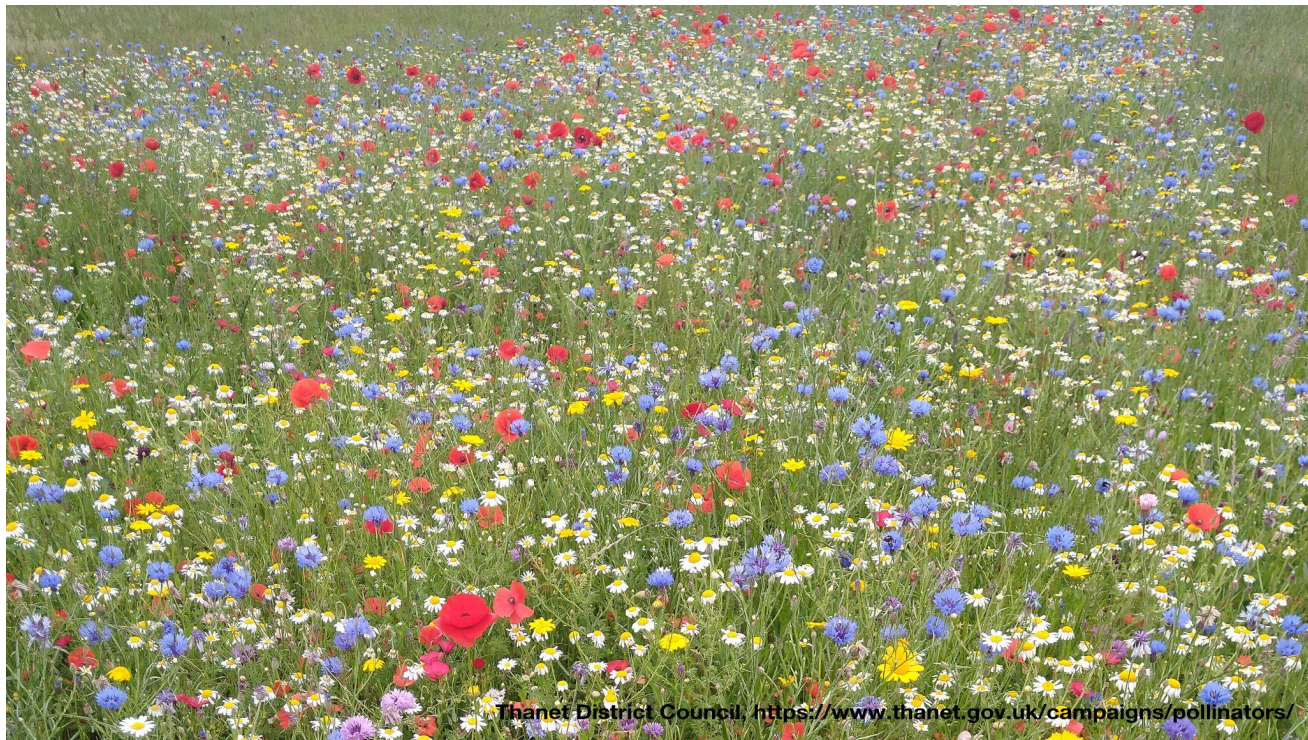
Engaged over 5000 people in 2021

Thanet Coast volunteers spent over 1400 hours monitoring our coastline





# Wildflowers





# Birdwise project

Protecting the daring dozen along our coastline

