

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 March 2024

COUNCILLOR ADAM VARLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO

For the period February to March 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Carbon Literacy training update

Cabinet and a large number of operational managers have received their carbon literacy training. A carbon awareness module is now being rolled out to other staff members.

UEA project

Kick off meetings have been held with UEA students carrying out carbon offsetting and habitat-based research projects applicable to our estate.

Solar Reef Carport update

The solar panels at the Reef continue to be monitored. In January 24 the panels produced **98.67%** of the energy expected in a typical January and in February 24 the panels produced **104.48%** of the energy expected in a typical February as stated in the original business case.

Cromer Office insulation works

Insulation of the external walls of the Cromer office has been completed. A consultant is being used to draw up a road map of further works at the Cromer office.

East of England LGA Water Summit

On 8th March 2024 the East of England LGA hosted a Water summit for all relevant stakeholders. This was a high level conference concerning the water challenges faced by the region, with a focus on the role of local authorities. The event featured informative presentations and workshop sessions, aimed at delving deeper into issues such as future water supply to meet demand for growth, managing down demand, biodiversity & river health, and nature-based solutions to flood management.

Norfolk Warm Homes

As part of the Norfolk Warm Homes (consortium of 5 Norfolk Councils) we have been successful in securing £3.9M of funding targeted at off-gas homes with poor EPC (energy efficiency) ratings. The Council's Energy Officer has been successful in promoting this scheme with excellent levels of take up by residents, particularly in the Stalham area, resulting in 40% of the total grant spend being made in North Norfolk

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership has approved 2 projects – a trial of thermal imaging cameras for local community groups to borrow and climate literacy training for communities.

3 Meetings attended

EELGA Water Summit
RSN Seminar: Rural Connectivity
UK100 Countryside Climate Network - Q1
Net Zero meeting
Bacton Energy Hub Research Workshop/Discussion