

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 March 2025

COUNCILLOR ADAM VARLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE & NET ZERO

For the period February to March 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Review of Environmental Charter & Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan

Several workshops have been held with staff and members to shape the revision of the Environmental Charter and Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan (NZSAP document).

The two net zero targets still remain – the Council’s 2030 target for its buildings & operations and for the wider North Norfolk district (community emissions) by 2045. The direction and actions to get there need to be assessed and revised in light of the changing context since the Strategy was adopted. Once drafted, the revised documents will be presented to CLT and members through the committee cycle.

Community Energy

Members of the Climate Team attended a Norfolk Climate Change Partnership workshop, funded by Innovate UK and facilitated by the Carbon Trust. Community energy is about reducing, managing & generating energy in ways that provide community benefit. It has the potential to play an important part in UK’s energy security and zero emission plans. Norfolk does not have many examples of community energy and funding is now available to help communities that are interested.

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/helping-your-community>
[Community Energy Fund - Greater South East Net Zero Hub](#)

Climate Emergency Staff Forum

The recently established Climate Emergency Staff Forum is meeting regularly. With representatives from across the Council, the group has concentrated so far on sharing examples of good practice between teams and identifying ways of embedding behaviour change in the office and day-to-day activities. The group has ambitions to take on some bolder initiatives in conjunction with the Decarbonisation Board.

Climate Impact Assessment Tools

The Climate team have devised a series of tools to assist in the assessment of climate-related impacts of decisions (to help complete the 'net zero impacts' section of committee reports). This will help in meeting the annual action plan objective to "ensure the climate impact of all decisions are fully accounted for." The tools, which come with guidance on the intranet, help staff consider and present the implications of their recommendations on the net zero targets.

Carbon Literacy

The Council was recently awarded Bronze Accreditation in recognition of the standard and number of people at the Council who have received climate literacy training.

Carbon Literacy and Carbon Awareness training continues to be available to all staff and members with ongoing availability to make sure all new starters are aware of the Council's aims and targets. If you have recently completed your training, please remember to complete your pledges in order to receive your qualification.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Collaboration with UEA

The Council has recently "commissioned" five UEA final year BSc students to carry out research on carbon credits and offsetting. The topics to be researched include the carbon value of our current assets, offsetting opportunities in Norfolk and current best practice amongst other local authorities.

3 Meetings attended

Cabinet
Business planning
Net zero strategy workshop
Nzsap team meeting
Transport webinar
Sustainability business briefing

