

MEDWAY CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS REPORT 2021-2022



In June 2021, we published our **Climate Change Action Plan**. In January, Climate Emergency UK ranked it as **31 out of all UK local authorities (the top 10%)**. They gave us a score of 71% and we received full marks in three categories - measuring and setting emissions targets, co-benefits and education, skills, and training.

We have published our annual carbon emissions reports for the first time on our website. In 2020/21 the **Council's carbon emissions were 8,303.31 tCO₂e**, a reduction of 21% on the previous year.

We have increased our engagement work. The Climate Response Team attended the Wild About Capstone Event to engage with the public and plant indoor herbs to encourage growing food at home.

We hosted a variety of events during COP26 to engage with the residents and businesses of Medway including a Carbon Literacy Taster Session and **Climate Cafés**. The Cafés were delivered by students from the University of Kent, to ensure that those working on climate projects are looking after their mental wellbeing.

Most notably, we hosted the **Climate Change Conversation** event at Rochester Corn Exchange to hear the thoughts and ideas of the community about what they could be doing to help tackle the climate crisis. We also held our first Community Network in February.

Medway Schools were invited to take part in our **Walk to School COP26** initiative in October. It is estimated that **over 5 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) was saved** by students walking to school rather than driving. We have also provided **3 climate themed classroom sessions** at schools in Medway.

Thirteen pledges to help schools address climate change have been added to the Better Medway School Awards, in preparation for the programme relaunch in 2022.

Environmental pledges have been included in the Kent and Medway Healthy Workplace Award programme. Case studies of organisations taking action to support carbon reduction are being shared with other businesses to inspire wider adoption. Find out more, visit: medway.gov.uk/netzerojourney

A Medway Youth Council representative has joined the Climate Change Members Advisory Board for the second year running.

We have been working hard to improve Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and to increase awareness of the benefits and availability of EVs. We have installed **34 electric vehicle charging points** in 3 council-owned car parks in Medway, and opened an electric vehicle charging point survey to encourage residents to suggest locations for on-street charging. We hosted our first **EV Event at Rochester Castle Gardens**. This was an opportunity for the public to see the options available to them and learn more about EVs and the infrastructure in place to support them in switching to an electric vehicle.





We are working with Kent County Council to support businesses to trial an **Electric Vehicle (EV)** for free, 13 businesses have taken part in the trial so far.

The first phase of the **Refit Energy Efficiency** and Low Carbon Programme started in October 2021, which will result in substantial energy and financial savings across Council buildings. So far **78 solar panels have been installed** at Cuxton, Gillingham and Lordswood Libraries.



Residents have been able to benefit from solar panels on their own properties through the Solar Together Kent scheme. The scheme allows residents of Medway to purchase solar panels at a competitive price and from pre-vetted and approved installers. So far **21 homeowners have installed a total of 206 panels, saving 16.5 tCO2e**. Over 750 Medway residents have registered their interest in the second round of the scheme.



The **Green Homes Grant**, a government funded initiative, has been supported and promoted. This scheme offers a wide range of energy-saving improvements in people's homes', through insulation measures and renewable heating technologies. This will help keep Medway's residents warm, while improving the sustainability of their properties and reducing emissions. **A total of 137 residents have registered** to find out more about their eligibility for the scheme.



We have continued to support our natural environment. In partnership with the community, **over 500 trees have been planted**. The first tree paid for by the community through the Medway Tree Fund was planted at Parkwood Shopping Centre, Rainham.

We are on schedule to complete our **LED smart streetlighting** replacement programme, by the end of July 2022 and have **installed 3984 streetlighting columns** since the start of the programme.

A two-year trial was completed that tested out the use of Warm Mixed Asphalt for resurfacing roads. This method requires less heating, therefore using less energy and reducing emissions, while remaining 100% recyclable.



All of our teams have continued to seek out funding opportunities to support our work, and have put in 6 successful bids, and received **over £500,000 of funding to support climate change** projects across Medway into 2022/23.

We have launched new web pages with tailored information for our residents, businesses, community organisations, landlords, schools and universities.

Our **Climate Change Newsletter** now has over **900 subscribers**, and our Climate Change social media over 3000 followers!

You can sign up to our newsletter and learn about climate change action in Medway by visiting:

medway.gov.uk/climatechange

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