

# Climate Change and our Natural Environment

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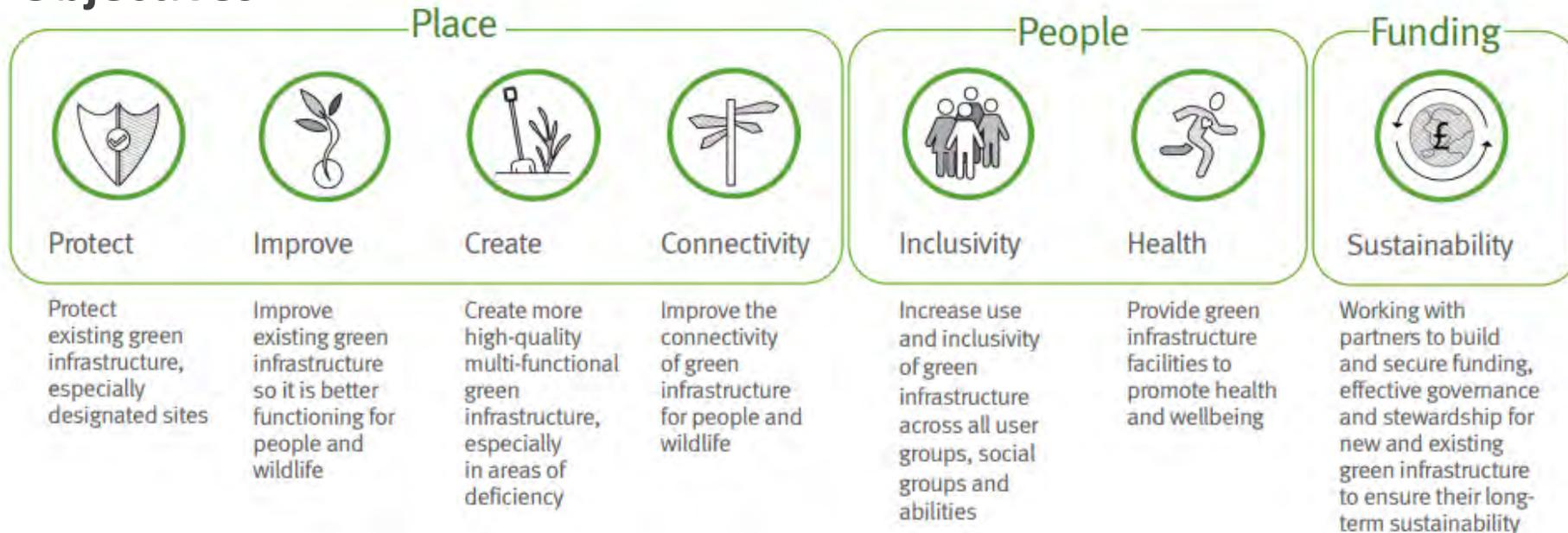
# Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy



## Our Vision

We will protect, develop and enhance a high quality connected green infrastructure network that extends from our city and town centres, and urban areas to the countryside and coast and which is self-sustaining and is designed for people and wildlife.

## Our Objectives



# The Strategy's Action Plan

## Role of Sectors in GI

### Planning

### Highways and Greenways

- i.e. Enhance PRoW and reduce pollution

### Coastal

- i.e. Living shorelines

### Flooding

- i.e. Natural Flood Management

### Energy

- i.e. Bio-solar Farms

### Health and Wellbeing

- i.e. Social prescribing and active lifestyle

### Education

- i.e. Outdoor classroom – Living laboratories, Forest schools

### Agriculture

- i.e. Environment Land Management Schemes

## Projects in Delivery

- Designated Local Wildlife Sites Review
- England Coast path in Essex
- Natural Flood Management
  - Increased Adoption of SuDs in all development
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Active Essex Local Delivery Plan
- Essex Forest Initiative
- GI Investment Readiness Fund
- Essex Local Nature Partnership,
  - Working Groups to deliver:
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategy
  - Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure Planning consultation service
  - Neighbourhood Plan Reviews
- Essex GI principles and Standards



# Essex Climate Action Commission

- **Independent Commission**

- Over 30 Commissioners.
- Cross-party Council representation.
- Experts from academia, climate scientists, the public sector and business leaders.
- For example: UN Chief Scientific Adviser, senior academics from all three Essex universities, representatives from major businesses, charities and trade associations.
- Appointed two Young Essex Assembly members to the Commission as co-chairs.

- **Commission report - Net Zero:  
Making Essex Carbon Neutral**

<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/>

[https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/DS21\\_7178%20ECAC\\_Commission\\_Report-Final.pdf](https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/DS21_7178%20ECAC_Commission_Report-Final.pdf)



Essex Climate Action Commission  
**Powering positive change**





# Essex Climate Action Commission

## Land Use & Green Infrastructure Recommendations

<b>RECOMMENDATION 1</b>	Farmland in Essex adopt Sustainable Land Stewardship practices
<b>RECOMMENDATION 2</b>	30% of all Land in Essex will enhance biodiversity and the natural environment by creating Natural GI
<b>RECOMMENDATION 3</b>	Develop schemes to increase flood resilience
<b>RECOMMENDATION 4</b>	30% greening of our towns, villages and new developments
<b>RECOMMENDATION 5</b>	Create a Climate Focus Area
<b>RECOMMENDATION 6</b>	Ensure collaboration & engagement by carrying out a participatory community process
<b>RECOMMENDATION 7</b>	Developing Effective Monitoring & Evaluation; Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework; Knowledge and Decision Support Framework; Essex Climate Observatory.
<b>RECOMMENDATION 8</b>	Develop a Funding and Partnership development Programme

# RECOMMENDATION 5

## CLIMATE FOCUS AREA

### Blackwater and Colne catchments

- West Bergholt falls within the CFA area

### To accelerate action and provide exemplars

- Adopting Sustainable Land Stewardship practices: 100% by 2030
- Increase Natural Green Infrastructure: 30% by 2030

### Targeting a designated area within the county allows for:

- More focused, ambitious and intensive action within shorter time frames
- Learning and acquired knowledge of positive impacts can quickly be disseminated across the county.
- Be a Pathfinder and Pilot area



# CFA Partnership

- An opportunity for the parish to work with CFA partners and Colchester Borough Council to feed into the process of creating the CFA delivery plan. Four stakeholder workshops have been organised where the Parish can influence the CFA delivery plan. The workshop dates are:
  - Workshop 1 – Friday 29th April & Friday 6th May
  - Workshop 2 – Monday 9th May & Monday 16th May
  - Workshop 3 – Friday 27th May & Monday 6th June
  - Workshop 4 – Monday 13th June & Friday 1st July
- The Parish to help identify areas of parish influence e.g. Parish lands to create wildlife or natural areas contributing to the wider areas of Colchester borough and the CFA area.
- Local Community, landowners and farming community can provide CFA with local knowledge, advice and expertise to ensure cross section views feed into critical programmes that are being developed.
- Collaborating on Comms – Since the Parish a part of Colchester and Colchester being a CFA Town!
- For further details email [environment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:environment@essex.gov.uk)



# Climate Biodiversity Action Plan

## Elements to include:

- Partnership/ Working group
- Communications
- Evidence Gathering
  - Land Ownership
  - Mapping – baseline and opportunities
  - Land management, maintenance and usage
  - Service searches – Utility pipes

Even a small thing done by the parish council and/or individual residents can make a difference, and everyone can play a part.

## Action Areas to consider:

Species Recovery program i.e. Hedgehog, Great Crested Newts

Tree Planting

Nesting Birds  
• Green Screens

Grassland management

Go pesticide free

Log piles – stag beetles

Litter Picking

Conservation grazing

Access for nature – remove barriers like fencing

Night corridors – reduce light pollution

More land

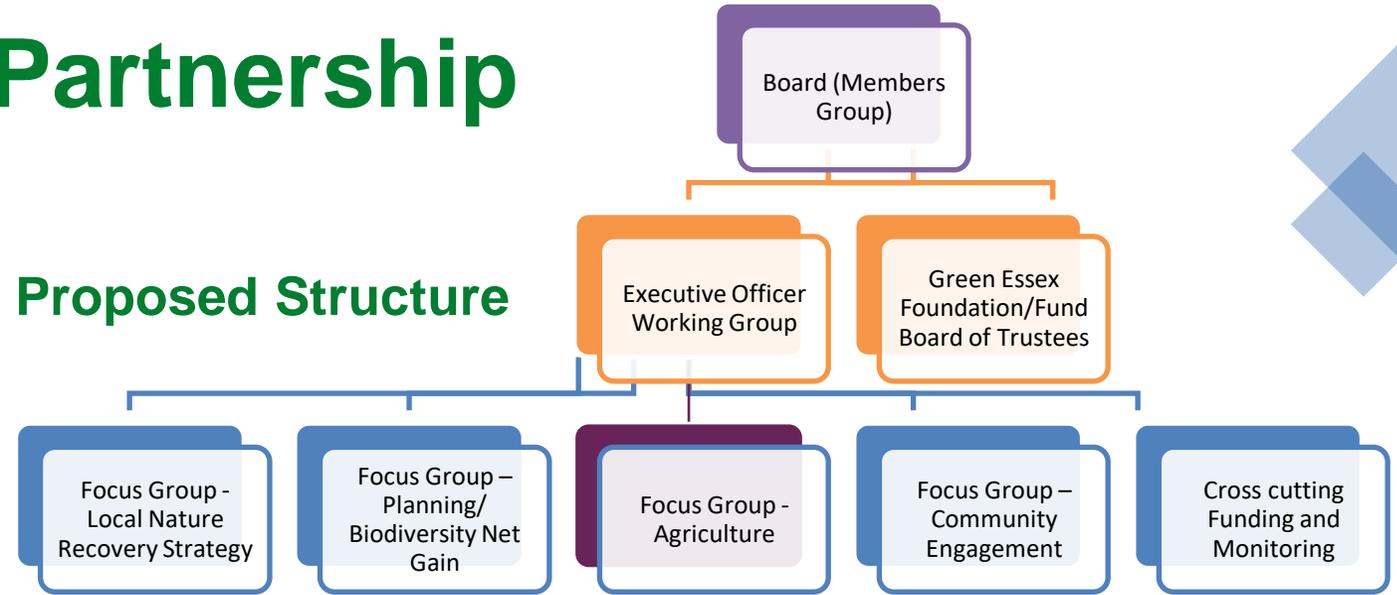
Pollinator planting

# Essex Local Nature Partnership



Dr Simon Lyster,  
Local Nature Partnership Chair

## Proposed Structure



## Draft LNP targets

### Natural GI

- To create 25% natural green infrastructure by 2030 (wildlife areas)

### Land Management

- To achieve 50% sustainable land stewardship by 2030

### People

- LNP to adopt the Wildlife Trust's 1-in-4 programme to engage residents with nature and achieve a 25% engagement level
- Target for everyone to have access to high quality natural space close to home and work

## How to get involved and kept up to date:

- Essex LNP Knowledge Hub – Online forum - <https://khub.net/group/essex-green-infra-structure-strategy-partnership/group-home>
- Essex LNP Web page - <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/local-nature-partnership>



## Local Nature Recovery Strategies: how to prepare and what to include

### Purpose

- Environment Act - Nature Recovery Network
- Coverage: Greater Essex
- The LNRS will be co-owned and co-created by stakeholders.
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Opportunity Mapping
- DEFRA guidance available in the first quarter of 2022

### Strategy structure

- A clear strategy document
- Identifies areas for biodiversity, and areas of recovery/ enhancement
- Deliver wider environment goals

#### This will include:

- Set of Local Nature Recovery Network (LNRN) Principles and clear priorities for Essex.
- Guide other important local and national policy initiatives, such as Biodiversity net gain and credits
- Help to attract future funding for environmental growth
- LNRN opportunity map that is accessible and updated

#### Parish Opportunities

- Parish's local expertise to ground truth baseline and opportunities, identify local areas.
- Parish Climate Biodiversity Action Plans feed In to strategy



# Wilder Towns, Wilder Villages

Link to our Wilder Essex video  
[https://youtu.be/f\\_75zyqlKM0](https://youtu.be/f_75zyqlKM0)



As part of Essex Wildlife Trust's Wilder Essex vision, and 2020-2025 strategic plan the Trust will support councils to reduce habitat fragmentation, increase connectivity and manage spaces for wildlife and people.

Guidance, advice and liaison will be offered through a variety of platforms such as site visits, toolkits, webinars, informal meetings (online or in-person) workshops and consultancy.



# Wilder Towns, Wilder Villages

## Think Globally, Act Locally

Guidance will be given on a variety of topics, including:

Launching 29 June 2022

- Actions for insects to promote insect recovery – managing road verges for pollinators, enhancing green spaces through naturalisation, reducing light pollution, delivering high quality green infrastructure on brownfield sites and eradicating pesticides in green spaces and green margins. Visit our website for more information on our current campaign [Action for Insects | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](https://www.essexwt.org.uk)
  - Actions to establish wildlife corridors to promote connectivity of habitats – managing hedgerows to join up rural and urban landscapes, increasing urban tree cover by planting the right tree in the right place, installing new orchards, protecting and expanding copses in green spaces and championing street trees.
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# Benefits for People

- Increased access to naturalised green and blue spaces
- Enhanced quality of green and blue space
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Reduction to summer temperatures (urban heat island effect)
- Bettered connection to nature
- Heightened sense of community



# Benefits for Wildlife

- Increased available habitat
- Reduced habitat fragmentation
- Established wildlife corridors
- Alleviated depletion of food, shelter and water.
- Reduction in pesticides
- Retention of native vegetation
- Managed for wildlife



# Woodlands and Trees

## Essex Forest Initiative

- Project aim = 375,000 trees over 5 years
- Year 1 (2020/21) = 38,000 trees
- Year 2 (2021/22) = 104,000 trees
- Ramsey, Harwich = EFI's biggest single site this year
- 14,000 trees with sustainably sourced mulch and fencing and no tree guards thus reducing the carbon footprint of the site

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/the-essex-forest-initiative>

## Big Green Internet

- Work with farmers and land owners to plant wildlife corridors and hedgerows to connect our woodlands
- Creating a connected network of woodlands from Epping Forest across to the North Sea
- The target is to plant 100 miles of corridors and half a million hedgerow whips over the next 10 years
- All the trees are supplied by the Essex Forest Initiative

<https://www.thebiggreeninternet.co.uk/>

# Getting Involved in EFI and Big Green Internet

We'd like to encourage everyone to get involved with the Essex Forest Initiative:

- You can get involved by providing land, planting trees or helping with events.
- Follow the [Essex Forest Initiative Facebook page](#) for the latest news, to join an event or to get in touch.
- If you have more than 0.5 hectares of land and want to find out about tree planting, please email us at [environment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:environment@essex.gov.uk) with the subject line 'Essex Forest Initiative'.
- If you would like to volunteer, please email us at [environment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:environment@essex.gov.uk) with the subject line 'Essex Forest Initiative Volunteering'.

# Climate Action Fund

- There is up to £20,000 of funding provided by Essex County Council to support voluntary and community projects tackling climate change.
- The money will be used to enable projects to deliver solutions to key climate change and sustainability problems.
- Available until March 2023.



Decide on a project and then fill in the application form: [bit.ly/EssexClimateActionFund](https://bit.ly/EssexClimateActionFund)

To include:

- **What you aim to do.**
- **What effect your project could have on the environment.**
- **How much you think it might cost.**

# The Climate Action Fund is split into two tiers:

## The Local climate action small grants fund

- Grants up to £5,000
- Aimed at small, localised community/unconstituted groups

## The Local climate action large grants fund

- Grants of up to £20,000
- Aimed at schools and constituted voluntary and Community Sector organisations with an income of over £100,000
- Parish Councils also eligible.

- More information on the fund can be found Onn ECC Website:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/knkzaf64jx5x/vfh1P9nIZAefpFZG8TKT7/b9f0467b1b3582602ba7901b5fbd42c6/Guidance-Notes-Climate-Action-Challenge-Fund.pdf>

- Email either [climate.challengeprize@essex.gov.uk](mailto:climate.challengeprize@essex.gov.uk) or [climate.commission@essex.gov.uk](mailto:climate.commission@essex.gov.uk) for any queries on applications.

## Community Engagement

- Creating easy to engage with forums/methods to raise awareness around key climate challenges and support changing behaviours at a local level

## Land Use and Green Infrastructure

- Improving use of green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities.

## Energy

- Widening access to/and uptake of renewable energies

## Built Environment

- Implementing Initiatives/measures to meet net zero standards in buildings and the urban landscape

## Waste

- making it easier for people to recycle, repair and re-use, and help people make good choices

## Transport

- Increasing active and sustainable travel provision within the county; reducing reliance on the car; and creating new cycling and walking opportunities

# Examples of eligible projects may include:



- Reduce; recycle; re-use around food, clothing, furniture and biodegradable waste
- Promoting and enabling sustainable travel (i.e. cycling schemes; walking schemes)



- Community gardening projects
- Making use of green space for community activity and promote biodiversity



- Upgrading community facilities (i.e. energy efficiency adaptations, solar panels)
- Supporting installation of more electric vehicle charging points





Thank You...

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