



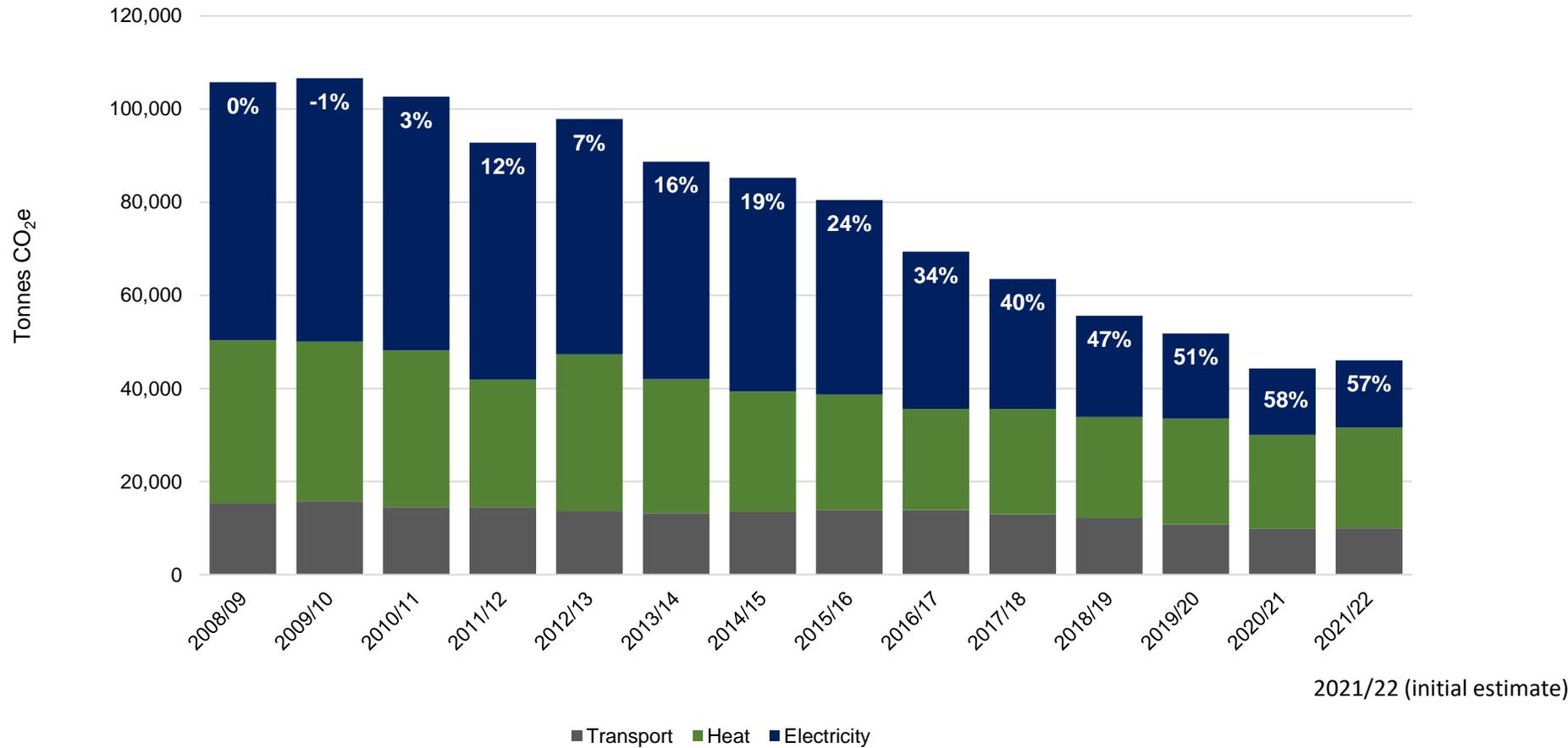
# Climate Emergency Response

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and Climate Change



# Council Emissions and Targets

DCC Annual Emissions and Percentage Reduction



# Targets

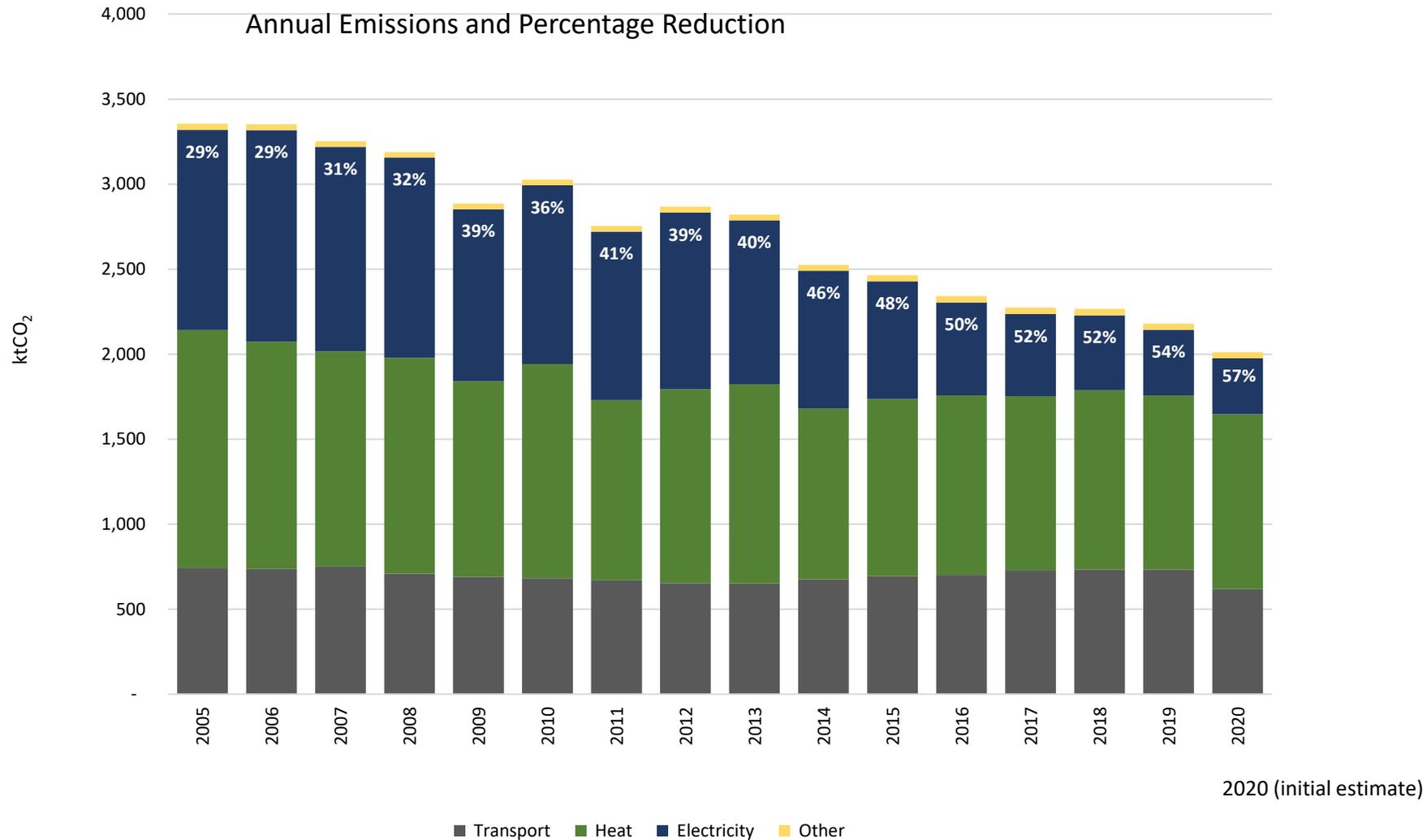
Year	Total Footprint Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per year	% Reduced From 2008/09
2020/21	44,319	58%
2022/23	36,701	65%
2024/25	31,401	70%
2029/30	21,610	80%

## Achieving the Targets

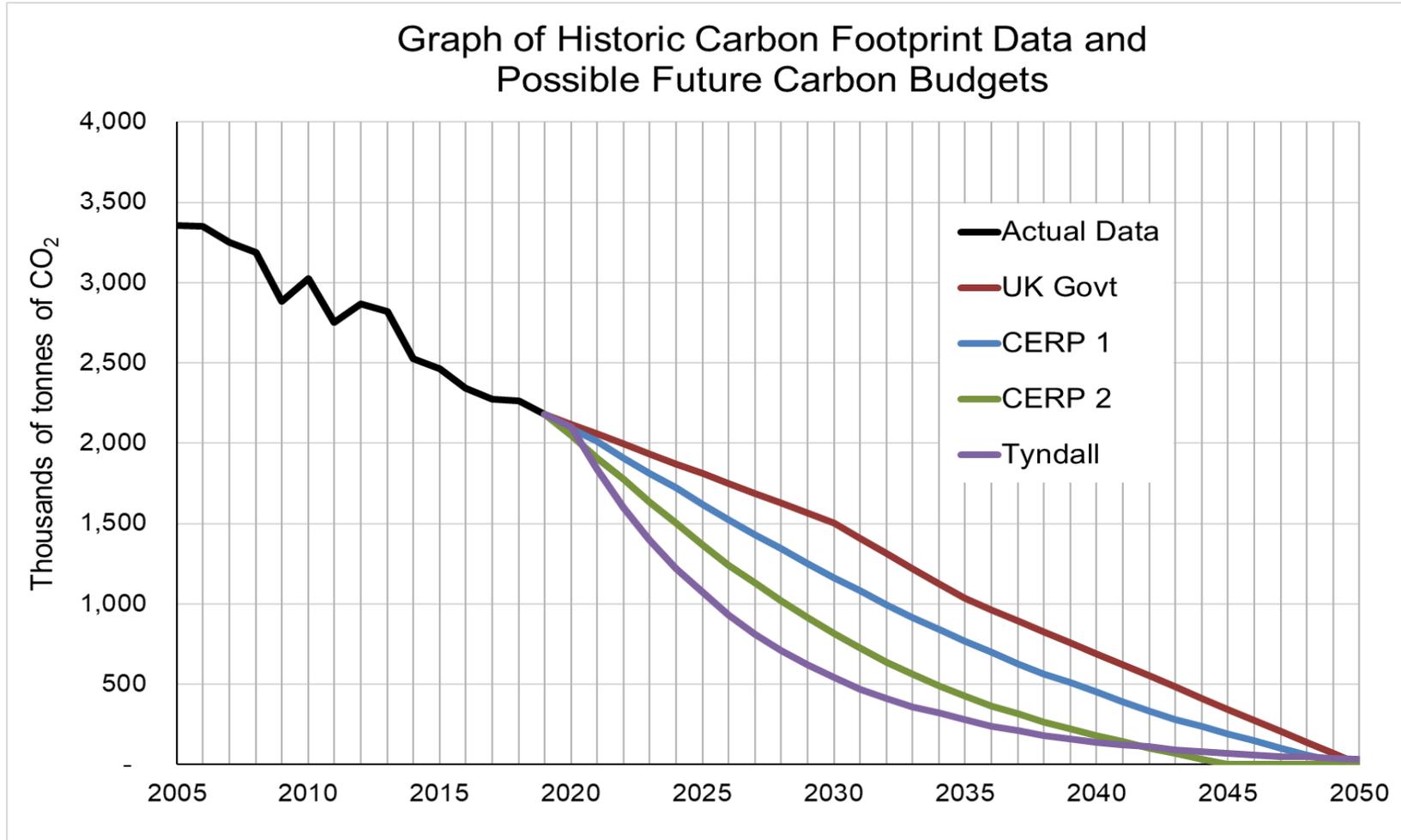
The overall target is to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 80% from 2008/09 levels by 2030 as well as achieving Net Zero by that same year.



# Countywide emissions



# Carbon Emissions



# Our commitments

Where we are now in 2022	Laying foundations Actions for 2030	County Durham's Aims for 2050
<p>Durham County Council emissions down by 58% from 2008/09.</p> <p>Countywide carbon emissions down by 54% from 1990.</p>	<p>Council emissions to be reduced by 80% from 2008/09 levels and net zero overall.</p> <p>County Durham emissions to be reduced or offset by 80% from 1990 levels.</p>	<p>Carbon Neutral County</p> <p>All carbon emissions from the council and the whole of County Durham to be stopped or offset by 2050.</p>

# Key Principles

1. A Fair and Just Transition
2. Achieving a Green Recovery
3. Being Community and People Centred
4. Applying Nature-Based Solutions

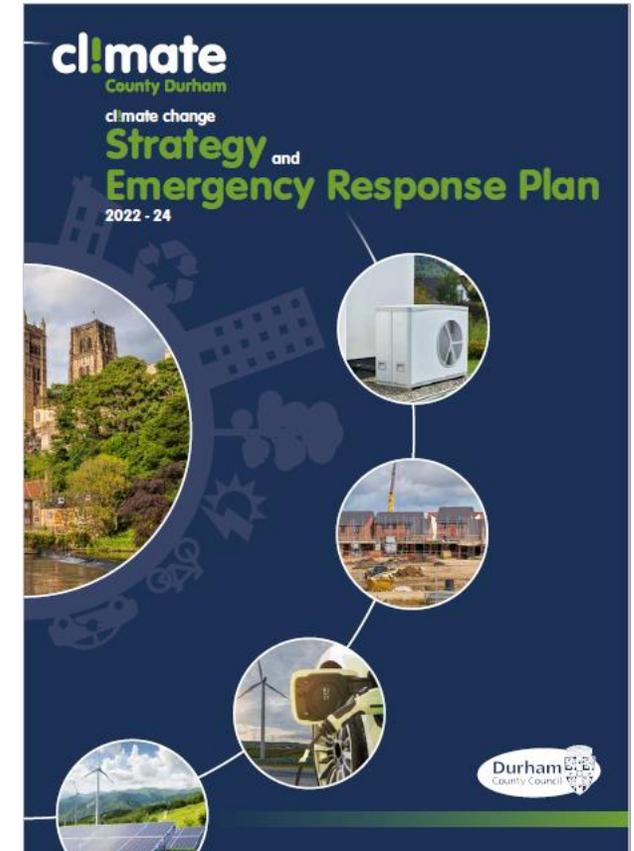


# The Climate Emergency Response Plan

**CERP 1 went from 2020-22 and contained over 110 projects**  
**CERP 2 goes from 2022-24 and contains over 120 projects**

## Chapter Themes

- Heat Decarbonisation
- New Development
- Transport and Connectivity
- Electricity
- Business and Skills
- Procurement and Waste
- Land and Sustainable Food Production
- Natural Environment
- Adaptation
- Engagement, Education and Behavioural Change



# Projects - Heat

Burning natural gas and other fuels to heat buildings in County Durham accounted for almost half (47%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019.

- Zero Carbon Depot
- Woodland Primary School
- Abbey Leisure Centre
- LAD Green Homes Grants
- Supporting Social Housing Providers with decarbonisation plans

On the way

- Seaham Garden Village – Minewater heated Housing Development
- More PSDS funding



# Projects – New Development

The built environment accounts for over half of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, through both construction and use.

- All new build Council development will be specifying low carbon heating technologies
- Development in off gas areas must utilise low carbon technologies for heating
- Seaham Garden Village – Minewater heated Housing Development



# Projects – Transport & Connectivity

Transport in County Durham accounted for one third (34%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019 (excluding motorway traffic and trains on the East Coast Mainline).

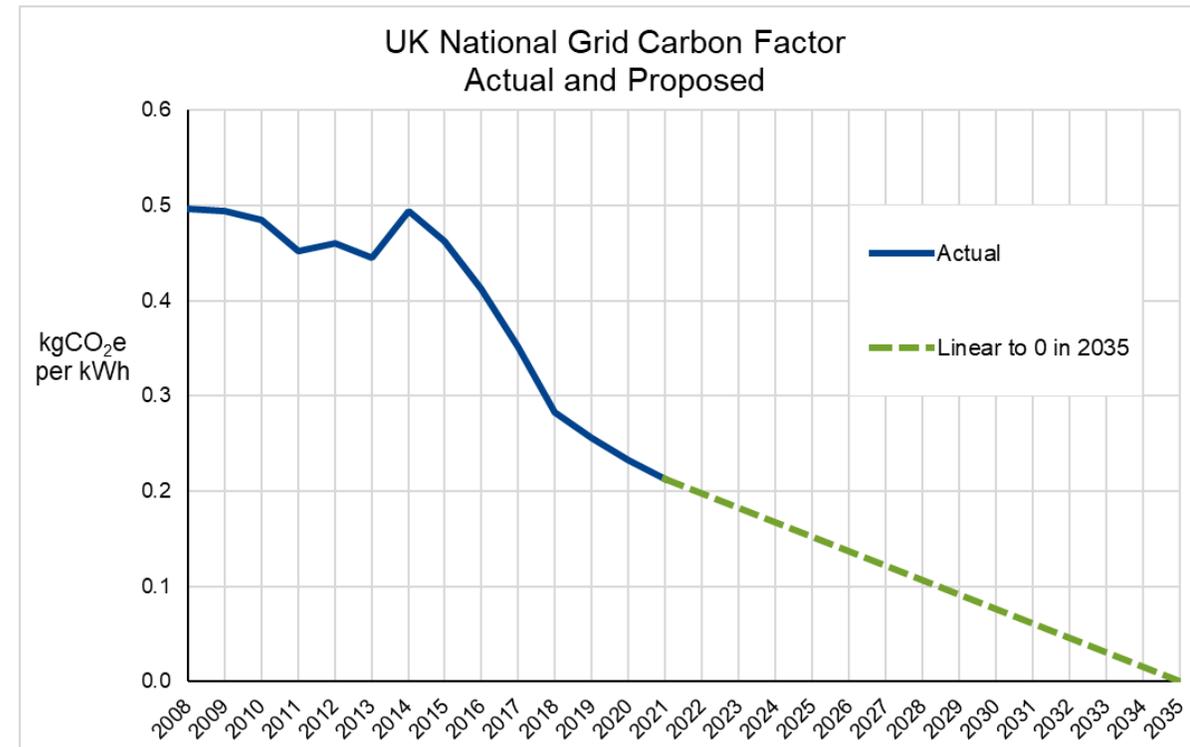
- The SOSCI project has installed 153 EV charge points sockets, 10 of those sockets are rapid charge, the other 143 7-22 kWh fast charging, in towns, libraries, leisure centres and community centres.
- The Council's Cabinet has committed to fund £3.75million as part of the Towns and Villages strategy to improve walking and cycling in County Durham.
- Local cycling and walking improvement plans (LCWIPs) have been developed to help identify how infrastructure can be improved to encourage active travel. This is alongside 'borrow a bike' schemes and investment in our public right of way network.



# Projects – Electricity

Using electricity from the national grid in County Durham accounted for about one fifth (18%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019.

- DCC's solar farm at Tanfield Lea, pictured, provides electricity directly into one of its offices, which will pay for itself in less than 10 years
- Hundreds of our buildings have been getting LED upgrades as well as most of our street lighting
- Private Solar PV generation



# Projects – Business and Skills

25% of County Durham emissions come from the commercial and industrial sectors and whilst there has been a significant reduction in energy consumption in this sector since 1990 there is still more work to be done as much of this decrease has been through closures of manufacturing industries.

- The Low Carbon Economy Team has supported over 400 SMEs with energy efficiency advice and grants since 2016 and continues to do so
- Sustainability questions on procurement questionnaires are driving all businesses to address their carbon emissions, and the Council are supporting them with impartial advice on how to do this.
- Customer awareness of climate change is also putting pressure on businesses to address the issue.
- Many businesses in County Durham are leading the way in decarbonising and in developing green technologies



# Projects – Procurement and Waste

Sustainable resource use is at the core of this theme. This means making better use of resources and considering the life cycle impacts of purchasing decisions.

- Durham has moved significantly away from disposing of residual waste in landfill over recent years.
- We have recently bought our first all electric refuse vehicle, Emma.
- There are facilities emerging in Durham and the wider region to process recycled materials and enable them to be reused in the manufacturing process.
- The County Council is leading the way in embedding social value and wider environmental concerns into major procurements
- Re-f-use in Chester-le-Street is a community café working to end food waste in County Durham. Each month it salvages over 10 tonnes of good quality food and serves it in the café, to private events and restaurant nights.



# Projects – Land and Sustainable Food Production

The food and drink we consume inevitably comes with a carbon impact, but this can vary hugely depending on how it is produced.

- The County Durham Food Partnership (Food Durham) has achieved bronze Sustainable Food Places status. It is working towards Silver status by late 2023. It benefits from partners across a wide range of sectors.
- Support for food surplus redistribution through the Poverty Action Plan and engagement with charity partners
- Establishment of Community Good Food Network to engage community food providers in food system issues



# Projects – Natural Environment

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. We will work together including through the Environment and Climate Change Partnership to protect, restore and enhance County Durham's natural ecosystems so that they contribute towards addressing the ecological emergency and climate emergency, in an integrated way.

- 16,000 hectares of blanket bog has been restored in County Durham, avoiding 192,000 tonnes of carbon from being emitted each year.
- Since 2020, 61 hectares of land has been planted with trees, helping to offset an estimated 22,113 tonnes of carbon by 2045.
- Certification of projects to the UK Peatland Code and Woodland Carbon Code, along with the sale of carbon credits are underway.
- Considerable opportunities to restore oyster habitats have been identified off the Durham coast.
- 40 hectares of Council owned land has been placed under positive management for wildlife.



# Projects – Adaptation

It is accepted that the impacts of extreme weather, is becoming more regular through climate change, impacting directly and indirectly on people in the UK and across the globe.

- The de-culverting of the Cong Burn in Chester-le-Street to prepare for a 1 in 100 year flood event in partnership with the Environment Agency with funding from ERDF, is just one example of where we are working to reduce risk.
- There is a 6 year programme of works for drainage and flood alleviation schemes, with a cost of over £29m



# Projects – Engagement, Education and Behavioural Change

Working together with our communities, partners, and staff to raise awareness, build skills and knowledge to tackle climate change will help us become the UK's greenest, environmentally ethical, sustainable, carbon neutral county.

- Branding has been developed creating a visible, easily recognisable message, raising awareness and bringing focus to our climate work.
- A community website has been developed bringing focus to our communities' efforts around the County to reduce emissions and impact on the environment
- Climate change discussions and actions are taking place across County Durham, and there is continuity in amplifying the message and combined efforts being taken to reduce emissions.
- The Eco2 Smart Schools programme has engaged successfully with schools across the County for more than 10 years



# Performance Monitoring and Next Steps

- The CERP Action Plan is an ever changing list of projects.
- Monitoring of Actions will be done on a bi-annual basis
- New Actions can be added to a live version
- Event attendance



# What is coming up

July



Engagement  
Education  
and  
Behavioural  
Change

Aug



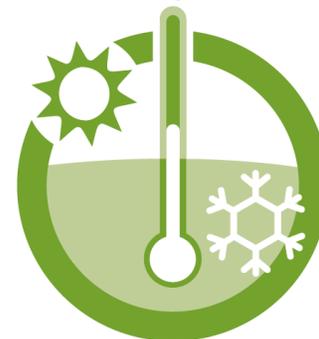
New  
Development

Sept



Electricity

Oct



Heat  
Decarbonisation

Nov



COP27  
&  
CERP2

Dec



Procurement  
and Waste

# What is coming up 2023

**Jan**



**Land and  
Sustainable  
Food  
Production**

**Feb**



**Business  
and Skills**

**Mar**



**Natural  
Environment**

**April**



**Adaptation**

**May**



**Transport and  
Connectivity**

# Conclusion

Turning  
cl!mate Talk into  
cl!mate  
Action



# Further Information

- **CERP2 Document**

[https://issuu.com/dccdesignandprint/docs/climate\\_change\\_strategy\\_and\\_emergency\\_response\\_pla?fr=sZGJmZDUxNTg0MzE](https://issuu.com/dccdesignandprint/docs/climate_change_strategy_and_emergency_response_pla?fr=sZGJmZDUxNTg0MzE)

- **Climate Change and Sustainability Intranet**

<https://websites.durham.gov.uk/climatechange/>

- **Climate County Durham Agreement**

<https://countydurhampartnership.co.uk/environment-climate-change-partnership/vision-and-priorities/climate-emergency/county-durham-climate-agreement/>

