



Creating Climate and Nature Action Plans For Parishes

How to create an action plan for your local area

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Introduction

This document is specifically aimed at parishes within Surrey that are looking to develop and implement climate and nature action plans.

If your parish is just beginning its climate action journey, this document provides a step-by-step guide to help you create a comprehensive plan from the ground up. For parishes that already have some initiatives in place, the toolkit offers additional resources and ideas to expand and improve efforts.

Parishes can pick and choose the sections and resources that are most relevant to their needs. This flexibility allows you to tailor your approach based on specific circumstances and goals. This document is accompanied by a separate template which makes it easy to organise and monitor plans. By following the guided sections and using the pre-filled examples, parishes can quickly develop a structured and actionable plan!

This document links to various external resources, providing further information and support.



Why create a plan?

Creating a climate and nature action plan for your parish is essential. Climate change and biodiversity loss affect each area differently, so a parish-specific plan allows you to address the unique challenges your community may face, like flooding, extreme heat, or habitat degradation.

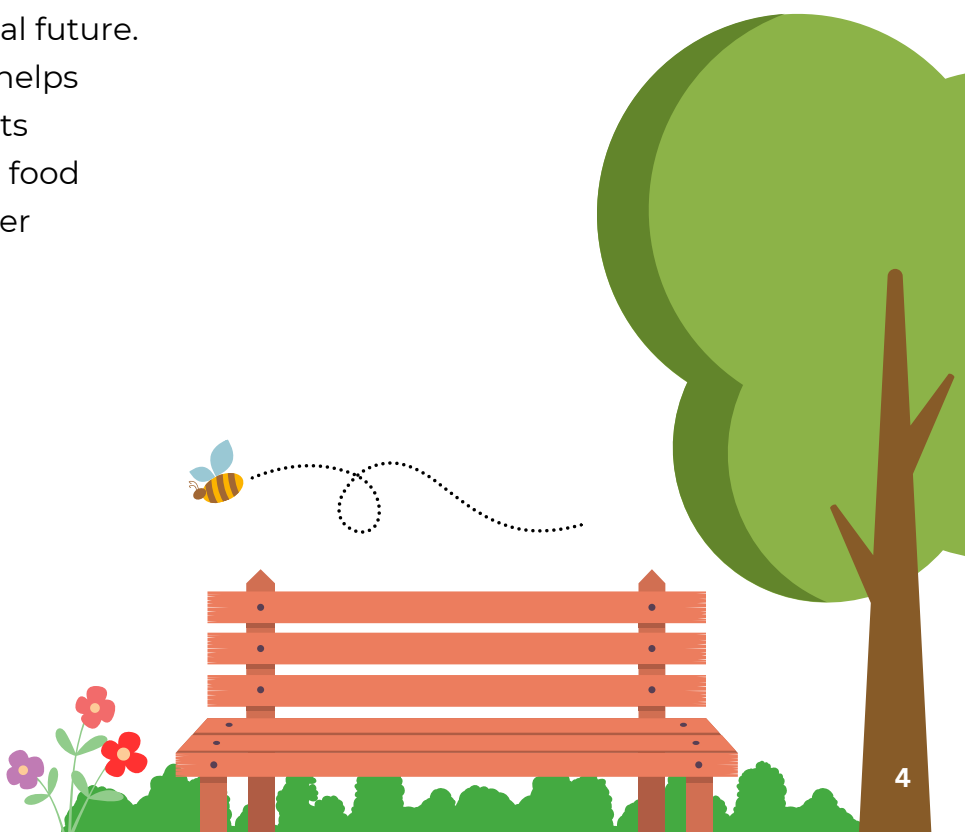
By safeguarding natural resources such as parks, rivers, and green spaces, you not only protect local ecosystems and biodiversity but also strengthen your community's resilience to climate impacts. Healthy ecosystems can buffer against extreme weather, improve air and water quality, and offer recreational benefits for residents.

Investing in nature-based solutions, like green infrastructure, enhances both climate resilience and ecological health.

A parish-specific climate and nature plan also serves as a platform to involve your community, giving residents a voice in preserving local ecosystems and making decisions about their environmental future. Protecting and enhancing nature helps preserve biodiversity, which benefits everyone in the parish by ensuring food security, pollination, and clean water sources.

Adopting sustainable practices can boost the local economy. Initiatives like tree planting, solar installation, and green infrastructure projects create jobs while supporting long-term environmental goals. Many regional and national authorities now require climate and nature plans, and having one can make your parish eligible for funding, grants, and support programs that aid sustainability projects.

Starting a climate and nature action plan today prepares, protects, and preserves your community's future, ensuring a healthy environment for current and future generations. By prioritising both nature and climate action, your parish takes a proactive step toward a more sustainable, resilient future.



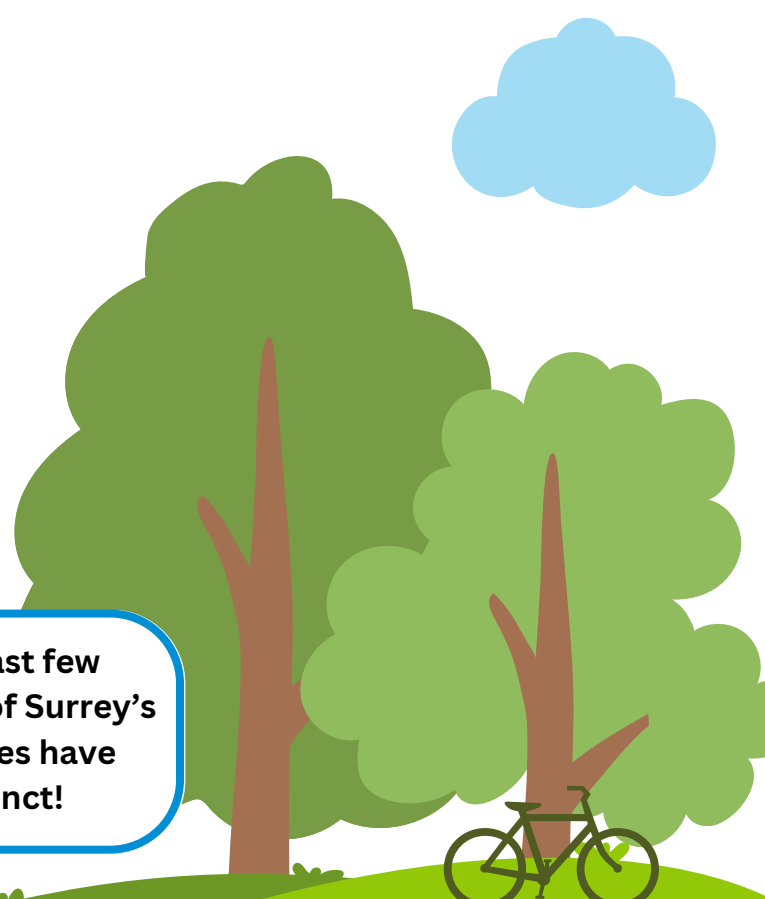
Current overview

Nationally, the UK aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and is implementing policies like Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act, requiring developers to enhance biodiversity by at least 10% on new projects. This push reflects a growing commitment to counter biodiversity loss alongside climate change impacts. However, practical implementation is ongoing, with additional BNG regulations anticipated to support this initiative.

In Surrey, a climate strategy and 5 year climate change plan has been in place since 2021. More recently Surrey County Council is focusing on environmental restoration with its Local Nature Recovery Strategy, backed by £250,000 from the government. This plan aims to strengthen biodiversity through collaboration with local councils, landowners, and communities, addressing both climate resilience and ecological health.

All Boroughs and Districts have climate action plans in place, and many boroughs, like Surrey Heath, are tailoring their local plans to these goals, incorporating climate change and biodiversity objectives into their urban development frameworks. This not only supports nature but also improves public access to green spaces, improves the quality of housing and safeguards Surrey's natural heritage.

Locally, individual districts are developing and refining plans to meet both Surrey's and national environmental targets. Some boroughs, like Waverley, have specific biodiversity action plans to reverse habitat degradation and improve local ecosystem health. These strategies involve policies for sustainable land use and support for green infrastructure, emphasising habitat connectivity and wildlife protection across Surrey's towns and rural areas. These concerted efforts at multiple levels highlight Surrey's role in the UK's broader environmental strategy and its commitment to balancing climate action with ecological preservation.

An illustration of a green landscape with rolling hills. In the foreground, there are two stylized green trees with brown trunks. A black bicycle is parked on the grass to the right of the trees. A blue cloud is in the sky. A blue-bordered speech bubble contains text about native species extinction.

Over the past few decades, 11% of Surrey's native species have gone extinct!



Creating a baseline

- Understand where your parish's emissions come from using the Impact Tool
- Learn the difference between territorial and consumption-based emissions
- Identify high-impact areas to prioritise action
- Optional guidance for measuring organisational emissions if your parish owns assets

Parish emissions

In this section, we aim to clarify what parishes should focus on when calculating emissions and creating a baseline.

Most will be working to achieve net zero for their own organisational emissions where applicable, such as emissions from buildings, procurement, vehicles, or other assets they control.

For parishes with minimal or no assets, this may require little to no direct calculations.

Parishes have a strong role to play in supporting the net zero ambitions of their entire geographical area.

While the responsibility for these broader targets is shared across the community, as parish councils you are well-placed to lead and coordinate efforts, acting as a catalyst for local climate action!



Parish emissions

Understanding where your parish emissions come from is a critical step in formulating a plan. You can't set a target if you don't know where you're starting from!

As a starting point, we recommended looking at [Impact Tool](#) to help you get an initial understanding of your parish emissions.

Using Impact Tool

The Carbon Calculator Impact Tool is a digital tool designed to help individuals, organisations, or communities estimate their carbon emissions.

- Start by typing your parish name into the tool to help you get an initial understanding of the emissions in your parish.
- Choose your calculation type: Select from three calculation options:
 - **Consumption-based:** Focuses on emissions tied to the goods and services consumed by individuals or households.
 - **Territorial:** Estimates emissions produced directly within the geographical boundaries of your area.
 - **Split between total and household:** Allows you to view emissions at both a community-wide and individual household level.
- The tool generates a detailed breakdown and chart to visually illustrate your emissions profile.
- Navigate to the compare section to see how your footprint stacks up against the national average. This can help you identify areas for improvement and track progress over time.

Is it high?

Many areas of Surrey have higher than average emissions.

The top 3 reasons for a high footprint in Surrey is likely to be:

- Wealthier residents consuming more goods and services.
- High gas consumption, possibly due to larger houses and poor insulation.
- High use of private vehicles, possibly made worse by infrequent public transport.

Input your data in the **Current overview** section of the template.

- Detailed [User Explanation](#)
- Download [Raw Data](#)
- [FAQs](#)

45,216t CO₂e*

total consumption footprint (p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Consumption of goods and services	14,672
Housing	11,007
Travel	10,887
Food and diet	8,521
Waste	129

Impact tool

When you first start your plan, the initial Impact Tool calculation serves as your baseline. The tool updates its data every two years, allowing you to compare and track progress.

Downloading the results from the Impact Tool will give you good quality information about the emissions in your parish. As you consider your action plan, you can use the information from the Impact Tool to consider which actions are likely to have the most impact in your parish.

The downloadable report provides an overview of your community's carbon footprint, detailing both the scale of emissions and the key activities contributing to them. The tool allows for carbon footprint analysis at the parish level and can be tailored to different geographical areas. The report includes data on both 'consumption-based' and 'territorial' emissions and compares your community's footprint to district and national averages, offering valuable insights to guide local climate action.



Impact tool

Consumption-Based vs. Territorial-Based Carbon Footprints

1. Territorial-Based Emissions:

- These emissions are calculated based on the greenhouse gases produced within a specific geographic area, such as a county or parish.
- This method includes all emissions from activities like manufacturing, transportation, and energy production that occur within the territory.

2. Consumption-Based Emissions:

- These emissions account for the greenhouse gases associated with the consumption of goods and services by residents of a specific area, regardless of where those goods and services were produced.
- This method includes emissions from imported goods and services and excludes emissions from goods and services that are exported.

Why this matters for your Parish

Understanding these two approaches helps identify where emissions are coming from and how they can be managed. For a parish, focusing on consumption-based emissions can be particularly insightful because it highlights the impact of residents' lifestyle choices and consumption patterns.



Organisational emissions

Understanding and measuring emissions is an important step in assessing your parish contribution to climate change.

This is only necessary if your parish has significant assets or activities that generate emissions. This might include ownership or influence over buildings, procurement spending, vehicles, or land.

For parishes with limited operational activities, emissions calculations may not be a priority; however, for those with larger assets or responsibilities, quantifying emissions can provide valuable insights to guide sustainable decision-making and climate action planning.

If your parish does have assets or activities generating emissions, understanding and measuring them can provide valuable insights for targeted action. Consider the following:

- **Buildings:** Do you own or manage any buildings that use energy for heating, cooling, or lighting?
- **Vehicles:** Do you own or operate any vehicles?
- **Land:** Do you manage parks, open spaces, or farmland?
- **Procurement:** Do you purchase goods or services, such as equipment, maintenance, or supplies, that contribute to emissions?

The following section details where you might find this data in order to start measuring.

Here are the key steps to measuring organisational emissions:

1. Identify all sources of your emissions.
2. Assess the scale of your activities (e.g., the amount of electricity and gas used, water consumption, etc.).
3. Convert these activities into greenhouse gas emission estimates using either the Climate Essentials tool or the DEFRA conversion factors.
4. Establish the initial measurement as your baseline and reassess annually to track progress.

Free Surrey decarbonisation course

Although initially designed for small businesses, this course can be useful for parishes to find out how to cut costs and how to calculate your footprint.

This is extremely useful if you have buildings, fleet etc.

Through this course you get a one year free license to 'Climate Essentials' carbon calculator tool.

[Link](#)

Organisational emissions

Where to find organisational data.

Energy use

- Bills for parish-owned buildings (such as community halls, offices, and public facilities) will provide annual usage in kilowatt-hours (kWh). You can request detailed historical data directly from their energy supplier if needed.

Transport

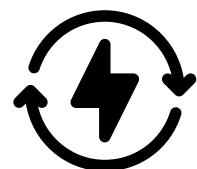
- For parish vehicles, use fuel receipts or mileage logs. Each type of fuel has specific conversion factors that can be applied to calculate CO₂ emissions.
- If public or community transport is involved, you can obtain estimates of fuel use or emissions from transport providers.
- You can also perform your own transport surveys to initially help collect data and create a baseline. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) release Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Conversion Factors and other resources annually, which can help convert energy usage, fuel consumption, and waste into CO₂ emissions estimates.

Waste

- Contact waste service providers (private or local authority-run) for data on the volume of waste collected from parish buildings, events, or public areas. They may provide breakdowns of waste types, which can then be converted to emissions using DEFRA's waste emissions factors.
- For large parish events, consider tracking the amount and type of waste generated as part of event management.

Water

- Water usage data can be sourced from water bills for parish properties. Water usage has a small but measurable carbon impact due to the energy involved in pumping and treatment.
- For parks or green spaces, tracking rainwater harvesting or water use reduction measures can also support wider goals.



Energy

- Energy Bills - gas & electricity
- Other energy for heating, lighting



Water

- Water bills



Transport

- Fleet mileage
- Employee mileage for commuting (travel survey)
- Other travel transport (freight)



Goods & Services

- Spend data on supplies, materials, services
- Refrigeration/Cooling - cooling service details



Waste

- Waste collection notes
- If known: waste vs. recycled, reused, repurposed or food waste amounts

Setting a target & reducing

This section relates to setting a target across organisational emissions, however some points are relevant to other activities that you can encourage across the parish to your residents and businesses.

1. Establish a baseline

Use available data from sources like fuel records, and waste management services. This will give you a baseline for energy use, transport, waste, and other key areas.

Use a carbon calculator. Tools like the Impact Carbon Calculator can help establish an accurate baseline by converting activity data into CO₂ equivalent emissions.

2. Setting a target

- To maximise ambition put your emissions reduction targets in line with the UK gov targets, they are:
 - 46% by 2025
 - 67% by 2030
 - 87% by 2040
 - 92% by 2045
 - 100% by 2050
- Setting this ambition for your parish aligns with Borough, District and County-level plans, so it's a great way to align ambition, whilst recognising that we all need to work together to achieve this level of ambition.
- Or you can set targets based on the actions you want to achieve. To do this you will need to focus on the actions you want to deliver and estimate their impact at the end of the process.

3. Developing a reduction plan

- Identify high impact areas: Use the baseline data to pinpoint where most emissions come from (e.g., buildings, transport, waste). Focus on these areas for maximum impact.
- Outline specific actions. For each area, list actions that can help reduce emissions. For example:
 - **Energy:** Improve building insulation, switch to LED lighting, and consider renewable energy installations like solar panels.
 - **Transport:** Encourage car sharing, promote cycling, and explore electric vehicle charge points on parish buildings.
 - **Waste:** Improve recycling, reduce single-use items at events, and promote composting.
- Estimate emission reductions: For each action, calculate or estimate how much it could reduce emissions. This helps prioritise efforts with the biggest impact.

Input this data in the
Organisational emissions
section of the template.

Understanding

Reducing emissions across sectors involves understanding the main sources of emissions in each area and implementing specific, targeted actions. Here's a breakdown by sector.

Energy

- **Energy efficiency:** Implementing energy-saving measures such as LED lighting, improved insulation, and energy-efficient appliances can lower overall energy demand.
- **Transition to renewable energy:** Shifting from fossil fuels to renewable sources (like solar) in buildings, street lighting, and community facilities reduces carbon emissions significantly.
- **Behavioral changes:** Encouraging residents to reduce their energy use through simple actions, like turning off unused lights, also supports lower emissions.

Buildings

- **Retrofitting:** Adding energy-efficient upgrades to buildings (insulation, double glazing, efficient heating systems) can drastically cut emissions from heating and cooling.
- **New builds:** Mandating or encouraging green building standards (like BREEAM or LEED) in new developments reduces emissions over the long term through design, material choice, and efficiency.
- **Smart technologies:** Use of energy monitoring and smart thermostat technologies helps reduce energy consumption by tracking and adjusting energy use.

Transport

- **Promote low emission transport options:** Encouraging walking, cycling, and public transport use reduces vehicle emissions.
- **Support electric vehicles (EVs):** Installing EV charging points and supporting electric vehicle incentives can shift local travel from petrol or diesel vehicles to electric, reducing tailpipe emissions.

Waste

- **Reduce waste generation:** Minimising waste at the source through policies on single-use plastics and promoting a culture of reuse reduces emissions from manufacturing and disposal processes.
- **Increase recycling and composting:** Expanding local recycling facilities and promoting composting reduces landfill use, which in turn lowers methane emissions.
- **Circular economy practices:** Encouraging the repair, resale, and recycling of goods supports a circular economy, reducing emissions from manufacturing new products.

Understanding

Agriculture and land use

- Regenerative agriculture: For parishes with local farms, regenerative practices like cover cropping or organic farming methods can improve soil health and reduce emissions.
- Tree planting and land restoration: Initiatives that protect local green spaces, plant native trees, and restore peatlands can capture CO₂ and enhance biodiversity.
- Local food production: Encouraging community gardens or allotments reduces the need for imported goods, lowering emissions associated with transportation and industrial agriculture.

Water

- Efficient water use: Reducing water consumption and fixing leaks can lower emissions related to water processing and pumping.
- Rain water management: Green infrastructure like rain gardens and permeable pavements can reduce stormwater runoff, lowering the energy required for wastewater treatment.
- Low carbon treatment technologies: Parishes can advocate for or invest in efficient wastewater treatment technologies that reduce greenhouse gases from wastewater.



Creating a baseline for Nature

- Identify and map existing habitats and land designations using tools like Land App
- Record nature assets and align actions with Surrey's Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Explore monitoring schemes to track biodiversity and ecological health
- Plan nature recovery actions and community engagement opportunities

Understanding

The first step is to understand what your natural assets are and what designations occur on your land.

(Designations are ways to classify different areas based on their ecological characteristics).

Review the extent of protected sites across your parish – all natural designations including ancient woodland are available on [the LNRS map here](#). There are additional local designations which aren't included but may be of interest such as local green spaces.

You can also use other Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to explore this information such as Land App. Some parishes will have access to this tool but there are also free licences available.

Evaluate & Record

Record and understand what habitats you already have. Using either Land app or Natural England's priority habitat inventory.

Design & Plan

Design actions that line up with Surrey's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) when released.

- High level priorities will be made more concrete over the coming months and you will receive the final report. Keep an eye out for it!

Reporting

Make sure you are keeping a record of the areas you are undertaking nature recovery actions on. This can be done in your template or on a mapping tool like Land App.

Input this data in the **Nature & Resilience** section of the template.

Understanding

Monitor

It is recommended to design a monitoring program based on activities. However here are some useful schemes with established methodologies. You can start with:

- Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (POMS): A program that helps track pollinator populations like bees and butterflies. It uses a simple and easy-to-follow method called FIT (Flower-Insect Timed) counts, where participants count insects visiting flowers within a set time. It's designed to be accessible to everyone, even beginners.
- UK Plant Monitoring Scheme: This program tracks plant species across the UK. While it's slightly more advanced than the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, it offers different levels of difficulty so that participants can choose a level suited to their experience. Data collected contributes to a national database, helping scientists understand changes in plant populations.
- Big Garden Birdwatch: A popular bird-counting event that encourages people to observe and record the birds in their gardens. While the method isn't as scientific as some, it's an excellent way to get people involved and excited about wildlife.
- Big Butterfly Count: Similar to the Big Garden Birdwatch, this event invites people to count butterflies in their local area. It's easy to join and helps raise awareness about butterfly conservation.
- Swift Mapper: A tool for reporting sightings of swifts (a type of bird) and noting when and where you see them. This data helps monitor their populations and breeding sites.
- The People's Trust for Endangered Species: This organisation offers a variety of wildlife surveys for people to report sightings of endangered species. These surveys cover everything from mammals to insects, helping to track and protect vulnerable species.

Mapping

Record and understand what habitats you already have. Using either Land app or Natural England's priority habitat inventory.

Land app

The Land App is a digital mapping tool designed to help landowners, farmers, and organisations manage and visualise their land data effectively. Parishes can use The Land App to create a nature baseline by mapping and assessing the natural features and habitats within their area. This baseline helps in planning conservation efforts and tracking environmental changes over time.

The app offers various map options and layer options to customise the view and data displayed. Users can add layers such as Ordnance Survey maps, aerial imagery, and habitat data to get a comprehensive view of the land. The filter options allow users to sort and display specific data, such as land use types, ownership boundaries, and environmental features. These tools make it easier to manage land sustainably and make informed decisions about land use and conservation.

Parishes can access The Land App by signing up for an account on the Land App website. The platform offers various subscription levels, including a free option that provides essential mapping tools and features. Once registered, parishes can start using the app to create maps and add data. The Land App also provides extensive help resources, including video tutorials and written guides, to assist users in getting the most out of the platform.

Using Land App

To digitise plans in The Land App toolkit, follow these steps:

1. **Create a new plan:** Start by selecting “New Plan” from the dashboard. You can name your plan and choose the type of map you want to create.
2. **Draw features:** Use the drawing tools to outline features on your map. You can draw polygons, lines, and points to represent different elements like fields, boundaries, and landmarks.
3. **Add data layers:** Enhance your map by adding data layers. These can include Ordnance Survey maps, aerial imagery, and other relevant datasets.
4. **Customise features:** Adjust the properties of your features, such as color, labels, and measurements. You can also add notes and photos to provide more context.
5. **Save and share:** Once your plan is complete, save it and share it with collaborators. You can invite others to view or edit the map as needed.

[For more detailed guidance, The Land App provides video tutorials and written guides in their help center.](#)

Land app

The free version of The Land App includes:

- **Simple mapping toolkit:** Quickly digitise plans and key information.
- **Up to 4 maps:** Create and manage up to four maps at a time.
- **Invite view only collaborators:** Share your maps with others who can view but not edit them.
- **Unlimited photos:** Attach as many photos as needed to your maps.
- **Access to government data layers:** Utilise authoritative data layers provided by government sources.
- **Automated workflows:** Benefit from automated processes provided by key partners.
- **Free training webinars and online help guidance:** Access resources to help you make the most of the app.

These features make it easy to start mapping and managing land data effectively without any cost.



Evaluate

- **Map out the space:** Create a simple map of your parish land, marking existing features like trees, shrubs, ponds, and green spaces.
- **Identify key areas:** Include buildings, parking areas, gardens, fields, or any natural features (trees, ponds, etc.).
- **Survey:** Document the types of plants and wildlife in your area. Are there native species, invasive species, or areas that are bare and underused? Use tools like iNaturalist or enlist the help of local environmental groups or ecologists. Consider setting up wildlife cameras for a short period to gather data.
- **Examine habitats:** Look for natural habitats that could be improved or restored. Are there hedgerows, wildflower meadows, or ponds? Could you add new ones or restore degraded areas?
- **Soil health:** Check the condition of the soil in various areas. Healthy, nutrient-rich soil is essential for plants and trees to thrive.

Plan

Once you understand what's on your land, make a plan and set clear, actionable goals for managing it. Your goals should reflect your parish values and capacity.

Also consider that sometimes doing nothing is the best! If you already have diverse habitats, there is no need to replace for the sake of doing something.

- **Improve biodiversity:** Could you plant a wildflower meadow or reintroduce native species of plants and trees?
- **Reduce carbon impact:** Look for ways to reduce the use of fuel-powered mowers or maintenance tools. Is there room for composting or rainwater collection systems?
- **Engage the community:** Think about how your land can serve as an educational or recreational resource. Could you create a prayer garden, meditation trail, or community garden?

Quick wins & long term

Some improvements are simple and can have an immediate impact, while others will require long-term planning and resources. Both are valuable!

- **Quick wins:**
 - Create a no-mow zone or wildflower area to encourage pollinators.
 - Install bird boxes, insect hotels, or small water features to attract wildlife.
 - Start a parish composting system for garden waste or food scraps.
- **Long term projects:**
 - Plant trees or hedges to provide shelter, nesting areas, and corridors for wildlife to move between habitats.
 - Restore natural water features or install sustainable drainage solutions.
 - Establish a community allotment or community garden for the community to grow food.

Engagement

Community involvement is crucial for the success of biodiversity projects. By local residents, you can raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, build community ownership, and increase the impact of your efforts.

- **Education and awareness:** Hold workshops or talks on biodiversity, sustainable gardening, or climate change. Promote it as part of your parish mission.
- **Citizen science projects:** Encourage residents to participate in biodiversity monitoring projects. This could involve counting local bird species, monitoring butterflies, or submitting sightings of wildlife to citizen science databases.
- **Volunteer workdays:** Organise regular events where individuals can help with planting, weeding, or creating wildlife habitats.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with local conservation groups, schools, or councils. They can provide expertise, tools, and sometimes even funding for your projects.
- **Create a group:** Form a biodiversity or nature group within your parish to lead on specific projects and ensure the community stays engaged and committed.

Creating a Baseline for Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience

- Understand why adaptation is essential and how it differs from resilience
- Learn how to assess climate risk using hazard, exposure, and vulnerability
- Use tools and resources to evaluate local threats and opportunities
- Begin planning and engaging your community around resilience actions

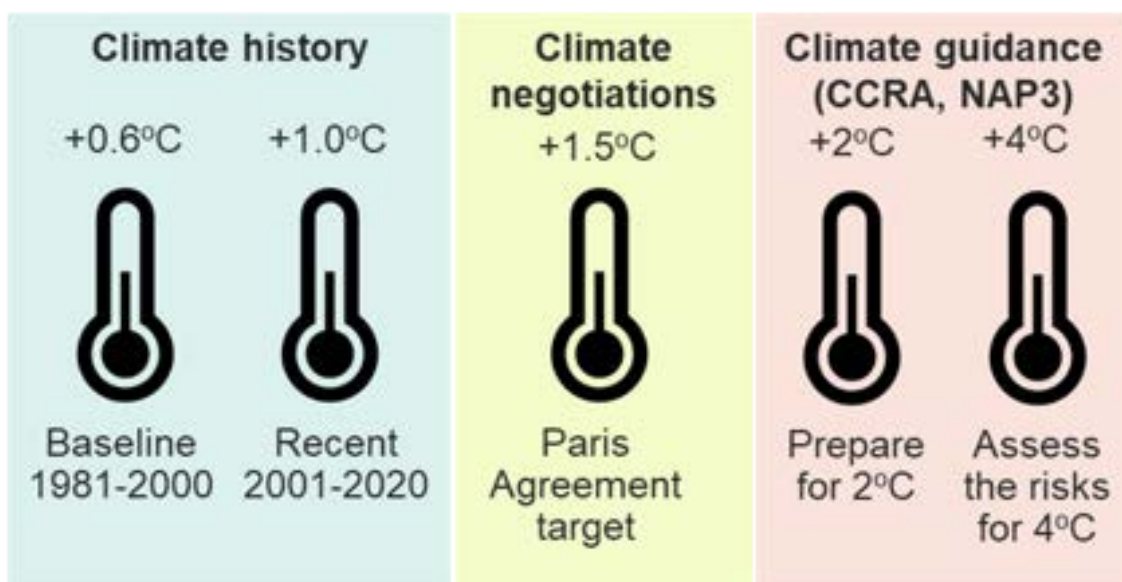
Why is adaptation important?

Even if we meet our Net Zero targets globally and locally, we will still have up to 2°C of warming to adapt to, and already face a huge adaptation deficit to the changes we are already facing. Importantly Central Government has instructed all organisations to adapt to 2C of change, the reality being that we have already overshoot the ability to contain the global change to 1.5C.

Climate Change is impacting Surrey via a range of increasing risks and hazards which are becoming a new normal. In Surrey, we faced our hottest summer on record in 2022, coupled with our most fierce wildfire season. In 2023 we faced the hottest June ever on record, followed by the wettest July, and the rainiest 18 consecutive months^[1], which included impacts from storms such as Storm Henk, and then the wettest September in a hundred years! However, impacts are not just coming via named storms and acute impacts, but also through slow onset changes that are impacting our ecosystems, agriculture, waterways, infrastructure, communities and even finances.

Should we overshoot our net zero targets globally, we have even more dire impacts, many of which might not be within our ability to adapt to globally. This is equivalent to the 4C Scenario, which Central Government has advise that all organisations consider for longer lived infrastructure, planning, and schemes that will be in place for 30 years or longer.

When we consider adaptation we see clearly, that achieving Net Zero is imperative, and adapting at the same time is a must.



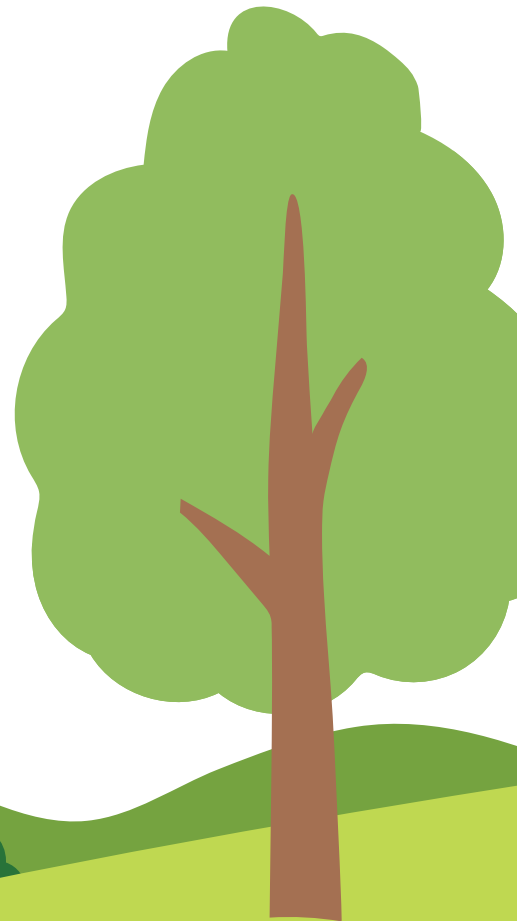
What is the difference between adaptation and resilience?

Resilience - is often focused on 'building back better' or recovering well from a crisis. It's often using data from the past to improve on how things run, or how we respond into the future. We can think of this as good hindsight.

Adaptation is about using information we have about the future climate (and some of it is also about the recent changes we have seen) and making changes based on that so that we are better able to cope into the future climate. We can think of this as good foresight!

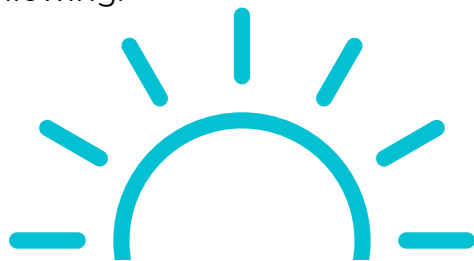
Adaptation = Foresight!

In reality we need both, and this is why we talk about climate change adaptation and resilience in Surrey, as it is an interconnected continuity. However, it should be noted, that we will never achieve resilience without climate change adaption, so all or our efforts linked to resilience forums, need to link with our adaptation efforts.



Why do we need to adapt to climate change impacts?

Unless we act rapidly to reduce global emissions and maintain global warming under 2c, by 2080s, Surrey can expect the following:



An increased likelihood of heatwaves

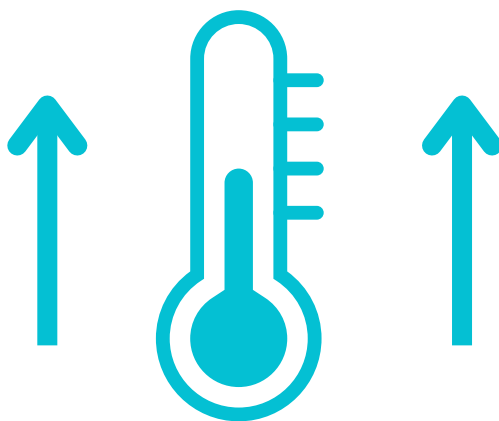
With temperatures of up to

37.6 °C

Hotter Drier Summers

With average daily temperatures **rising** by up to

3.5 °C



Warmer Winters

With average daily temperatures **rising** by up to

2.2 °C

Droughts becoming more common as Summer rainfall **falls** by

27.7 %

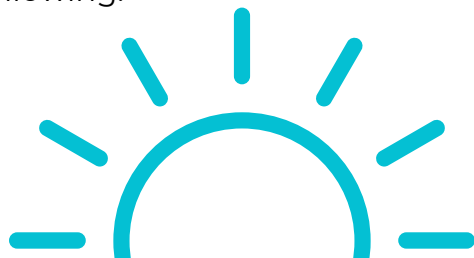


A higher risk of flooding with Winter rainfall **increasing** by

15 %

Why do we need to adapt to climate change impacts?

If we do not act rapidly to reduce global emissions and global warming under 4c, by the 2080s, Surrey can expect the following:



An increased likelihood of heatwaves

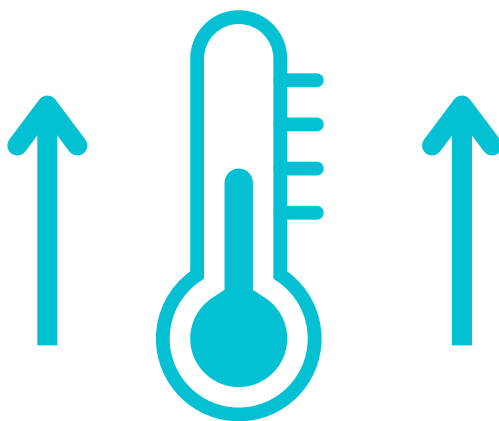
With temperatures of up to

40 °C

Hotter Drier Summers

With average daily temperatures **rising** by up to

5.7 °C



Warmer Winters

With average daily temperatures **rising** by up to

3.6 °C

Droughts becoming more common as Summer rainfall **falls** by

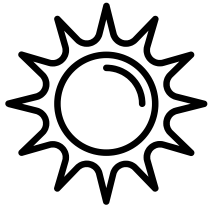
40 %



A higher risk of flooding with Winter rainfall **increasing** by

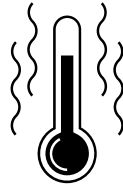
23%

What changes could we see?



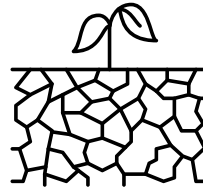
Heatwaves

- Deadly & medical human challenges
- Roads and rail roads melting
- Overheating of IT equipment & servers
- Food safety – agriculture, deliveries



Warmer Temperatures

- Increased costs to keep cool
- Pressure on infrastructure
- Crops
- Disease and pest increase
- Danger to biodiversity and pollinators



Drought

- Water shortage
- Need for more water storage
- Crops and food safety
- Impact on green spaces



Increased Rainfall

- Floods
- Roof leaks
- Water damage
- Access restrictions

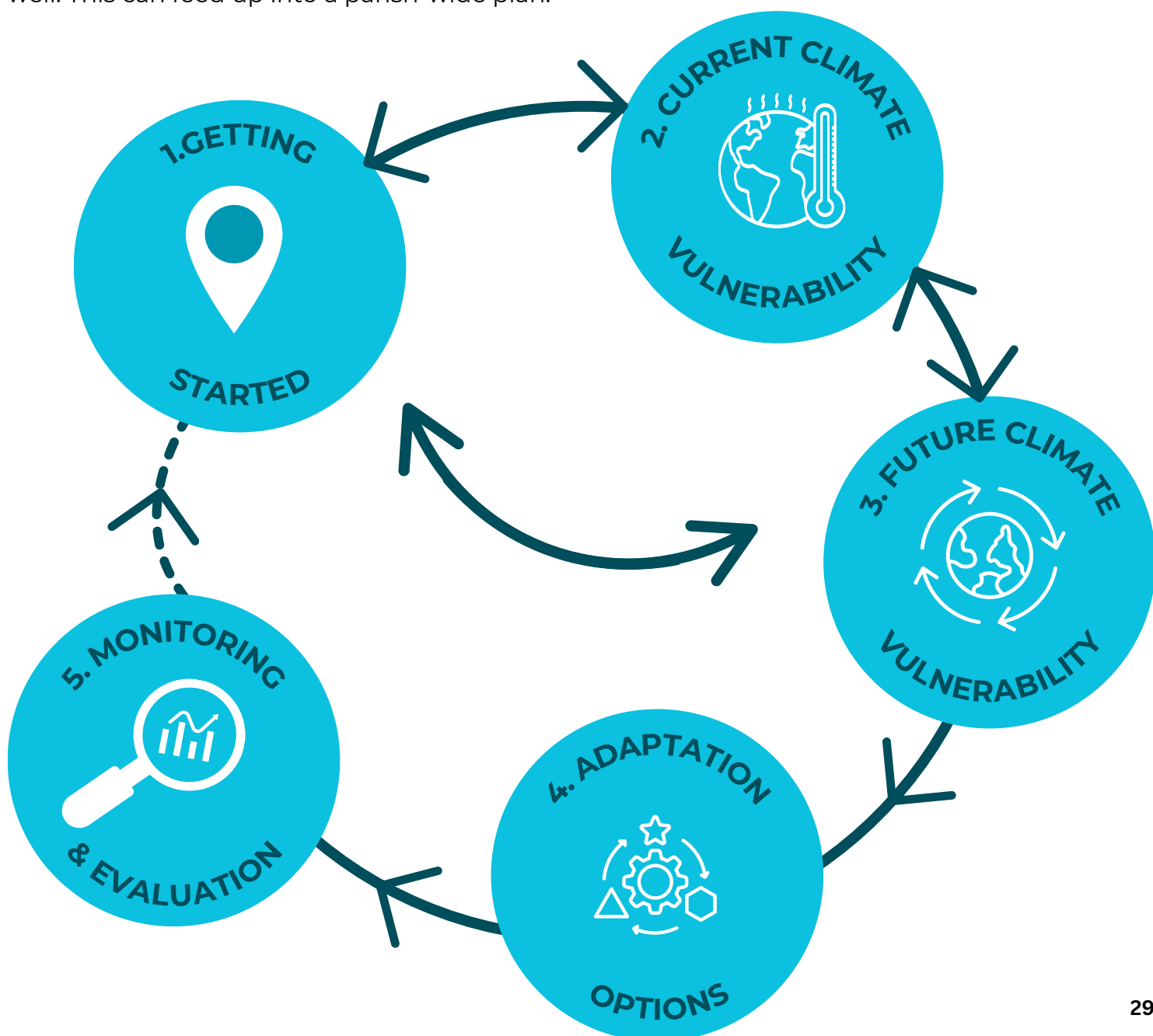


Evaluate

To understand how your parish will need to adapt, you need to unpack the risks you have faced in the past, and assess how these change with climate change. This can be derived from the Surrey County Council assessments, with other available tools and data from the MET office, and/or with expert inputs.

You do not need to feel overwhelmed by data to start with, you can start using the past and present as a helpful window into the future, but you do need to assess what the climate scenarios mean for your services, and your community. The process of adaptation is an iterative process, so build capabilities iteratively, starting with a simple assessment and plan, and get more detailed each year. The below diagram is a generalised approach to follow ([Climate adaptation toolkit and risk generator](#)).

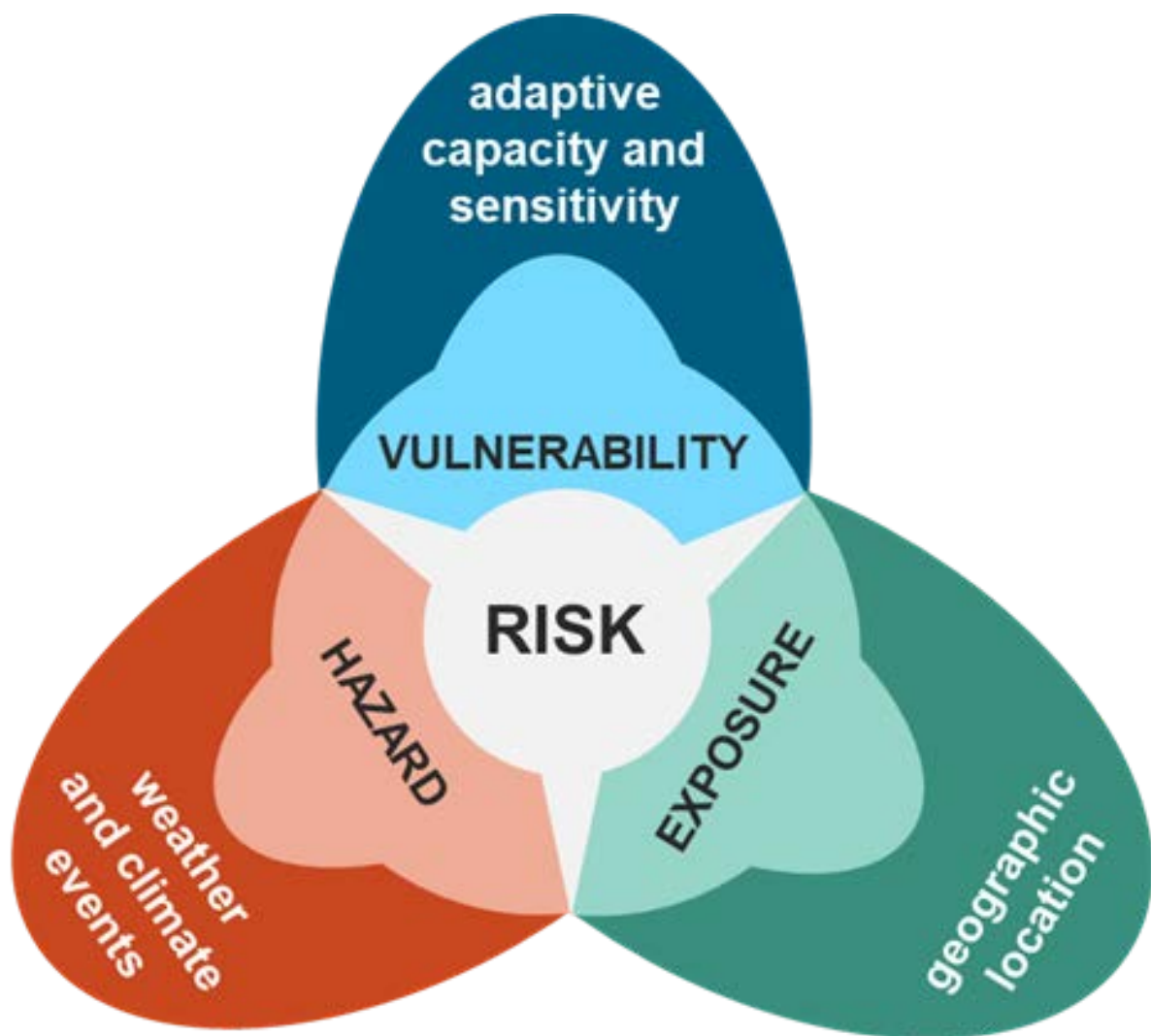
You can also do local community risk mapping on paper with community groups, to create support and a collaborative approach. The community will likely know their current risks very well. This can feed up into a parish-wide plan.



Understanding your climate risk

Surrey County Council developed a climate change risk and opportunities assessment (CCROA) in 2021 (available on request, and the best source of risk data for Surrey locally). This document outlined, in a similar fashion to UK wide risks assessments that there is a growing burden or risks to manage and adapt to as our climate rapidly changes. Even without this report, recent climate events clearly show us the growing risk we already face.

Climate risk depends on hazard, exposure and vulnerability



Climate Risk and Adaptation Resources

By learning more about climate change, you will be better equipped to understand the climate risks you face locally. The Met Office provides guidance on what climate change is, what it means for the UK, and how it is linked to extreme weather and its impacts.

- [Climate Explained](#)
- [Climate Change in the UK](#)
- [How is climate linked to extreme weather?](#)
- [Climate Impacts](#)
- The annual [State of the UK Climate Report](#), which provides an up-to-date assessment of the UK climate.

Met Office State of the UK Climate 2023

2014-2023 has been 1.25°C warmer in the UK than 1961 - 1990

2023 was the **second warmest** year on record for the UK.*

The UK recorded its **warmest** June on record.†

'Hot' days (≥28°C) more than **doubled** and 'very hot' days (≥30°C) more than **trebled** in the most recent decade (2014-2023) when compared to 1961 - 1990.‡

*All years starting 1864.
†Fig refers to average count of days per year in 2014-2023 where maximum ≥ 30°C.
‡Count of days based on max. temp in each area.



With **7 named storms**, 2023-2024 had the most active start to the storm season since naming was introduced in 2015. September to December 2023 was also the **wettest** period since 2000.



Tide gauges around the UK recorded their highest or second highest year on record. **Rates of sea level rise** are **increasing** at up to 4.6 ± 0.9 mm per year (1993-2023).



2014-2023 was the **sunniest** 10-year period on record.†



Seasonal changes, evident in nature, are being observed by Citizen Science[¶]. 2023 saw **earlier** Hazel flowering and Elder first leafing, and the leaf-on season **extended** by 4 days for some woody species.



Despite the active start to the storm season, UK annual **wind speed** continues a **downward trend**, though this decline appears to have recently slowed.^{||}

UK series from 1961. †Nature's Calendar run by the Woodland Trust. ‡From 1969-2023. For illustrative purposes only. For further context and detail, please refer to the full report.

UK Climate Projections

Climate information within the Local Authority Climate Service is based on the UK Climate Projections (UKCP). UKCP uses cutting-edge climate science to provide updated observations and climate change projections out to 2100 in the UK and globally. The project equips the UK with information to help adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. Use the links below to find out more:

- [UK Climate Projections \(UKCP\)](#)
- [UKCP Starter's Guide](#)
- [UKCP E-Learning](#)

Local Climate Adaptation Tool (LCAT)

The Local Climate Adaptation Tool (LCAT) is a national evidence-based resource to support local decision-makers, including public sector institutions to take climate adaptation action. This is helpful for authorities in the early stages of considering adaptation and climate risks.

[LCAT: Local Climate Adaptation Tool](#)

Local Authority Climate Service

This site provides tools and resources that have been specifically designed for Local Authorities to help them better understand climate change in your local area and support the adaptation journey.

[Local Authority | The Met Office climate data portal](#)

Local Partnerships – Adaptation Toolkit

This is a practical resource designed to help local councils—including parish councils—prepare for the impacts of climate change.

[Climate adaptation toolkit and risk generator](#)

OpenClim Portal

OpenCLIM (Open CLimate Impacts Modelling framework) is an integrated assessment framework that brings together existing models for highlighting the impacts of climate change and informing adaptation needs at national and place-based scales.

In its current form, the implications of climate change on agriculture, biodiversity, heat stress, flooding, drought and water supply are considered. It includes changes to urban building density and type, land surface material and biodiversity enhancement. Driving these future changes across these different sectors are the latest [UK Shared Socioeconomic Pathways \(SSPs\)](#) and [UK climate scenarios](#).

[OpenCLIM - Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#)

UK Adaptation Inventory

This provides insight into examples of adaptation taking place, or planned around the UK.

[Adaptation Inventory | OpenCLIM](#)

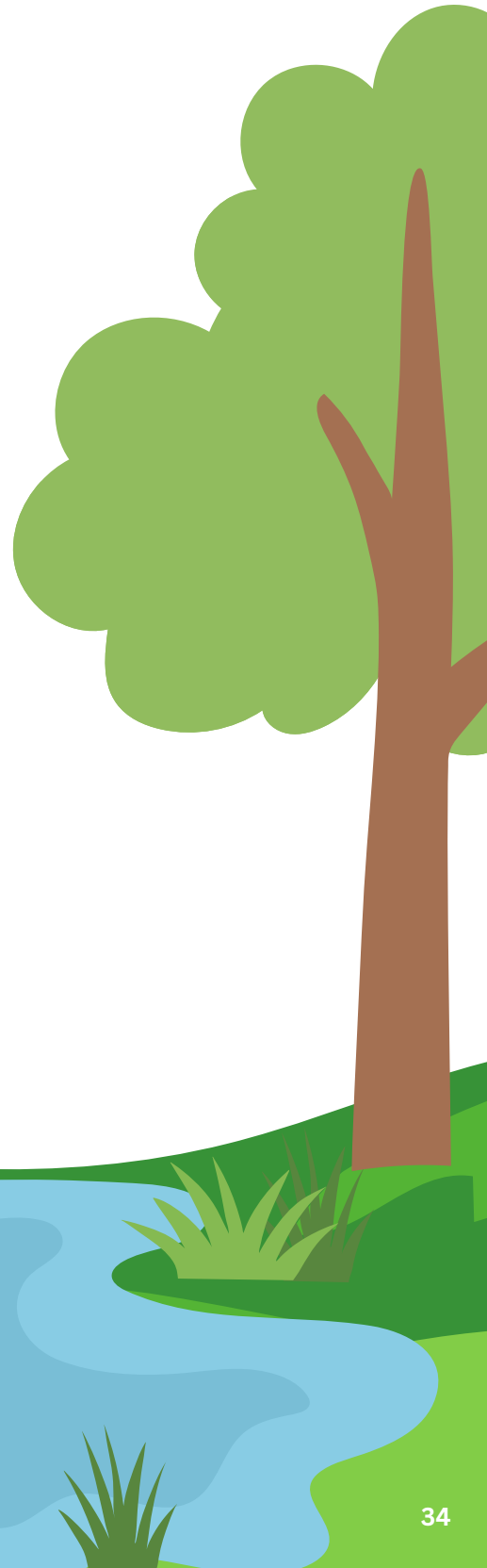
Climate Just Tool

Climate Just is a free webtool for public service providers designed to: i) Identify who is vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty and why; ii) Highlight neighbourhoods where climate disadvantage is highest; iii) Explain the factors involved and help you decide what actions to take. It provides a useful starting point for local authorities to start assess the social risks of climate impacts.

[Climate Just | An information tool designed to help with the delivery of equitable responses to climate change at the local level](#)

Plan

Once you have a better understanding of your local climate risks and how they may unfold you can start building a plan in response to this. Design your plan with the [Surrey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy \(Surrey Adapt\)](#), as a guide. Capture the quick wins, and low hanging fruit, but also capture the challenging responses that might not be easily funded or resourced. It is important that parishes can work with the council to do this, so that we can see where we might crowd source funding and resources, and work collaboratively across partnerships to fund and resource aspirational and transformational adaptation responses (such as we have been doing via flood forums already).



Build your adaptation plan

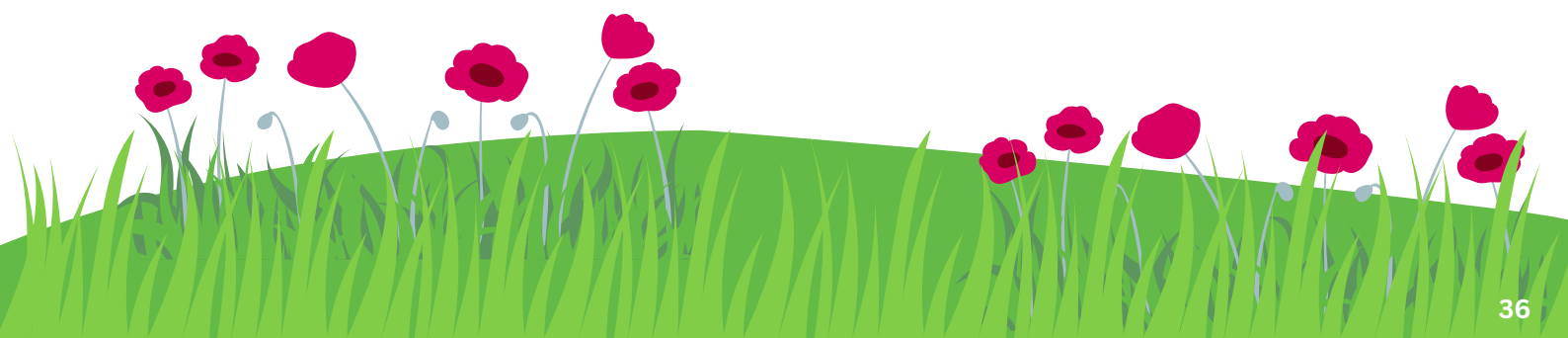
- Start with quick wins and low hanging fruit
- Identify options with multiple benefits (e.g. for nature, wellbeing, flood risk reduction, water resilience etc.)
- Capture the challenging responses
- Work with the County, and other partners, or existing partnerships (such as local flood forums) to highlight the actions that cannot be done alone by the Parish, so that partner projects can be identified.
- Identify what adaptative capacity is needed by the community
- What are the gaps?
- Identify opportunities – e.g. for nature, you might enhance what is there, create connections between green spaces, enhance flood defences, and work with land-owners and farmers to help them understand the positive impact they could have on flood risk reduction with well managed land.
- Some key resilience measures may cross-over with emissions reductions targets, for example, communities with a diversity of energy sources are more resilient in climate hazards – if the electrical lines go down, but many have solar power they will be more resilient. Climate change adaptation often requires us to have more redundancy available, rather than being super efficient – systems that are too efficient and interconnected (such as one big grid) can be less resilient to hazards. The same applies for water security.
- Long term planning is key with adaptation, we have a unique view into the future with information providing effectively a crystal ball – something we don't have for many other risks that can hit us out of the blue (like a pandemic). Remember that a big flood scheme as an example can take 10-15 years to reach its full implementation, so we need to set our big plans in motion now, there is no more time to waste!

Engagement

Engaging residents in the full range of the adaptation planning will be hugely beneficial as residents and community groups will “know their patch”, and help identify past and current risks. Build on this then with the climate projects, but by essentially asking – “what will happen when this event is worse?” – how will we cope, and what can we do differently? How do we plan for the worst-case scenario now?

Existing forums such as Local Flood Forums, Resilience Forums, and Nature related groups are ideal starting points for engaging on climate risks and adaptation. Working with Business forums can also be ideal, to help create awareness amongst business owners that they face risks and will also need to adapt, by doing this creative and innovative partnerships can be developed.

One of the most important long term adaptation responses is around creating enhanced social resilience, our communities will need to rely on each other, work together to solve challenges, and the better prepared they are now, the stronger they will be through adversity. Communities with strong social ties, where climate hazards, and potential climate related trauma can be worked through collectively are more likely to be resilient in the long term.



Understand your resilience opportunities and threats

To understand resilience opportunities and threats for nature and community wellbeing, you can start by assessing its environmental vulnerabilities and strengths. Resilience planning focuses on strengthening natural systems and building adaptive capacity to withstand climate impacts, such as extreme weather events or flooding. Here's a breakdown of steps for identifying opportunities and addressing threats:

Identify Resilience Opportunities

- Use natural features like wetlands, woodlands, and community green spaces to manage stormwater, improve air quality, and support biodiversity. For example, tree planting and creating wildlife corridors can boost biodiversity and mitigate flooding impacts.
- Engaging residents in local green projects (e.g., community gardens, rewilding initiatives) strengthens social bonds and creates shared responsibility, enhancing community resilience.
- Investing in solar panels, heat pumps, or energy efficient infrastructure for community buildings reduces dependency on fossil fuels and helps increase energy security, which is important during extreme weather events.

Assess potential threats

- Identify risks like flooding, heatwaves, and drought, which can damage infrastructure, threaten human health, and disrupt local ecosystems. Knowing the risks helps in implementing specific resilience measures (e.g., rainwater harvesting or drought-resistant planting).
- Developments, pollution, and invasive species are threats to local biodiversity. Loss of habitats impacts resilience, as biodiversity supports ecosystem services like pollination, soil fertility, and water purification.
- Water scarcity or supply chain disruptions due to climate change can impact local agriculture, food security, and overall community wellbeing. Resilient water management strategies, such as greywater recycling, can help address these risks.
- Identify groups in the community more likely to be affected by climate risks, such as elderly residents or those in flood-prone areas. Planning specific support systems for these populations (like warm hubs) is key to resilience.

Creating the plan

- Learn how to engage stakeholders and set clear goals for your parish
- Use baseline data to identify priority areas for action
- Draft your plan using a structured template with timelines and responsibilities
- Explore ways to monitor progress, adapt over time, and celebrate milestones

Your journey

The journey of a parish in developing a climate and nature action plan typically follows several key stages. Each stage builds on the foundations for practical actions, community engagement, and long-term sustainability. Here's an overview of what that journey might look like:

Building awareness and getting buy in

- **Engaging stakeholders:** It is important to bring on board local leaders, council members, and the wider community. It's important to get buy-in early to ensure commitment to the plan.
- **Identifying community interest:** Surveys, community meetings, and consultations can help identify the priorities and concerns of residents. This engagement also fosters a sense of ownership, encouraging more people to support and participate in future actions.
- **Experts:** There are lots of knowledgeable and talented people that may be willing to provide their expertise towards your plan. So consider forming partnerships with important individuals or groups that operate in your area.

Measuring baseline and identifying key areas

- **Baseline:** Create a baseline so you can understand the overall emissions and impact of the parish. You can measure against your baseline to track progress and reductions.
- **Identify priority areas:** Based on the baseline data, you can identify key areas for improvement—such as reducing building emissions, improving local biodiversity, or enhancing waste management. This helps focus the action plan on areas rather than trying to tackle everything at once.

Set clear targets

- **Establishing goals and milestones:** With priorities identified, parishes need to set measurable and achievable targets. Examples include reducing emissions by a certain percentage by a specific year or planting a certain number of trees.
- **Creating a timeline:** Breaking down the journey into stages with timelines—such as short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals—helps keep the parish on track and makes the plan more manageable.

Developing and documenting the action plan

- **Drafting the plan:** The parish council or a dedicated climate action group drafts the plan via our template, outlining specific actions, responsibilities, timelines, and resource needs.
- **Peer review and community feedback:** Before finalising, it's helpful to seek input from other parishes or community members to get their input can strengthen the plan and ensure it reflects local needs.

Your journey

Implementation of actions

- **Starting with quick wins:** Tackling small, visible projects first can build momentum and demonstrate commitment.
- **Mobilising volunteers and resources:** Many actions will require volunteers and possibly fundraising. The parish may also need to collaborate with local organisations or apply for grants.
- **Engaging the community:** Keeping the community involved during implementation—through regular updates and events, can help maintain momentum and support.

Monitoring and adjusting

- **Track progress:** Regularly monitor progress towards goals, using specific metrics tied to the initial targets. This might involve tracking energy use, evaluating reductions in waste, or measuring improvements in local biodiversity.
- **Evaluate and adapt:** Based on progress, the parish may need to adjust its actions or timelines. Challenges and new opportunities will arise, and a flexible approach helps keep the plan on course.

Reporting on progress and celebrating milestones

- **Public updates:** Periodic reports keep the community informed of successes and remaining challenges. This transparency can be shared through newsletters, social media, or community events.
- **Recognising contributions:** Celebrate key milestones and publicly recognise individuals or groups who have contributed. This reinforces community support and shows that efforts are paying off.

Reviewing and renewing the plan

- **Annual review:** Set a review date to review the action plan to see what's working, what's not, and what new actions might be needed. This keeps the plan relevant and focused on ongoing improvement.
- **Long term vision:** Climate action is an ongoing journey. As targets are met, the parish can set new ones, ensuring continued progress toward a sustainable and resilient community.

Involvement

Britain talks climate

Britain Talks Climate is an evidence-based toolkit designed to help engage the British public on climate change. Developed by Climate Outreach, it segments the population into seven groups based on core beliefs, making it easier to tailor climate communication to different values and concerns.

This toolkit is particularly useful for engaging with people because it:

1. **Builds resonance:** It helps create narratives that resonate with diverse values and everyday concerns, making climate discussions more relatable.
2. **Reduces polarisation:** By understanding different viewpoints, it fosters more inclusive and less polarised conversations.
3. **Strategic engagement:** It provides a shared understanding of public attitudes, helping to strategically engage across the whole community.

The "Britain Talks Climate" initiative identifies several key motivating factors that influence how different segments of the British public engage with climate change.

Use these insights to help align the plan with varied values. Not everyone prioritises "sustainability," but many care about health, local economic resilience, or energy savings. Frame actions in ways that resonate with these values, for instance, emphasising air quality improvements or cost savings from energy efficiency

Understanding these factors can help tailor communication and engagement strategies to effectively address the concerns and motivations of different groups.

Progressive Activists



Backbone Conservatives



Civic Pragmatists



Established Liberals



Disengaged Battlers



Disengaged Traditionalists



Loyal Nationals



Involvement

Involving partners and the local community can help you tap into additional resources, expertise, and funding while also boosting the reach and impact of any climate initiatives.

Use clear, relevant messaging

Connect the action plan to local priorities by using relatable examples from Surrey or nearby areas, which resonate more with community members. This approach builds trust and makes sustainability goals feel achievable.

Highlight how community members are joining efforts or how neighboring parishes are acting on climate. normative appeals—showing that “others are doing this”—can be powerful motivators, encouraging people to feel part of a shared mission.



Time Scale

A timescale establishes a structured approach, ensures accountability, and helps the community stay motivated as they see progress. A well-organised timescale provides clear deadlines for each objective, allows for realistic resource allocation, and breaks down goals into manageable steps.

By having both short and long-term aims, the parish can make immediate visible changes that build momentum while working steadily toward broader, longer-term goals.

0-2 Years: Short term goals

1. **Baseline and awareness**
 - Measure missions and create baseline.
 - Host community workshops on climate change and sustainability.
 2. **Quick impact actions**
 - Begin a tree-planting or community garden project.
 3. **Community engagement**
 - Hold community meetings to gather input and ideas.
 - Start fundraising events and apply for grants for early projects.
 4. **Immediate energy savings**
 - Upgrade parish buildings with LED lighting and energy-saving measures.
 - Launch monthly climate updates in newsletters or online.
-

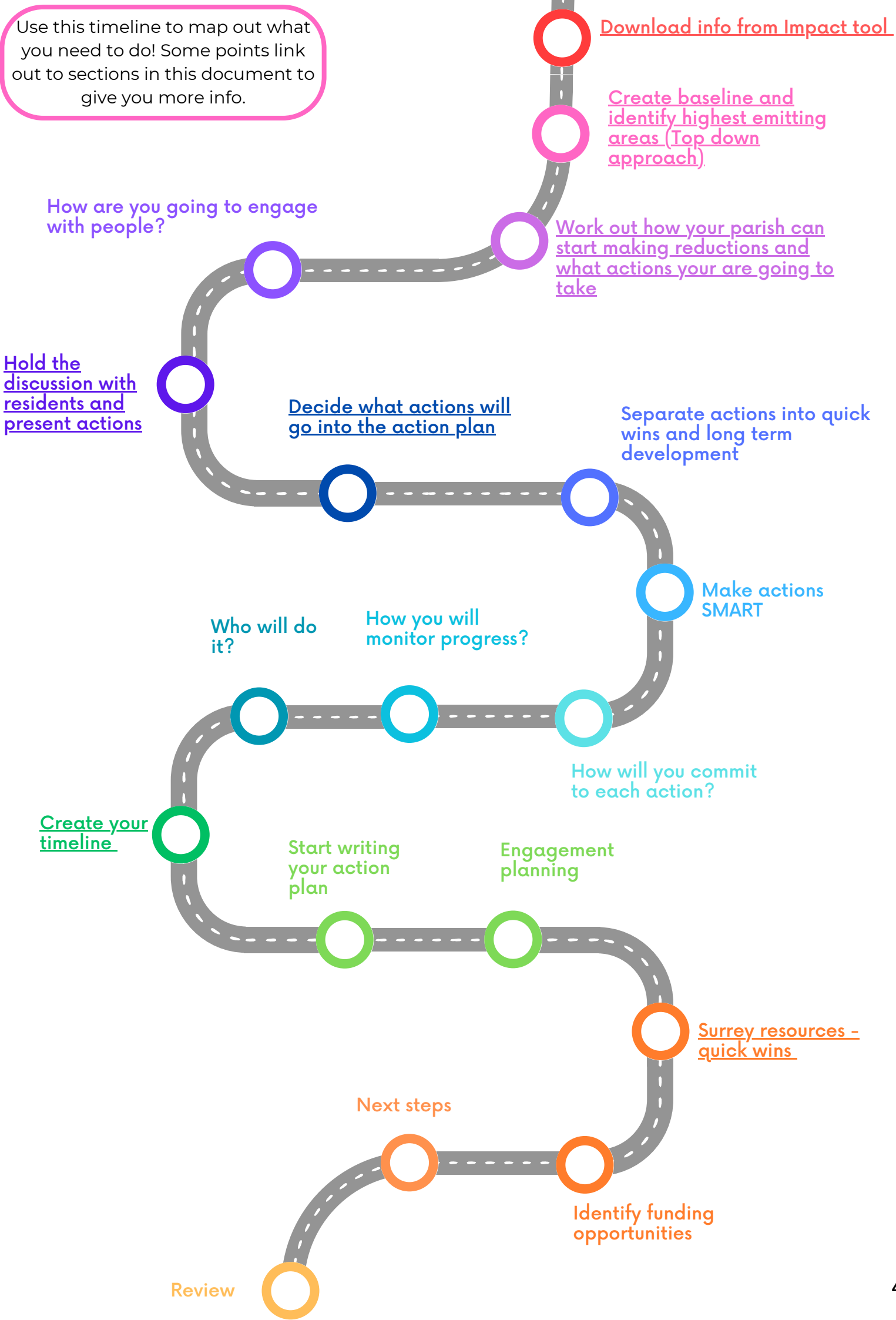
2-5 Years: Medium term goals

1. **Build action groups**
 - Form volunteer groups focused on specific goals (e.g., biodiversity, transport, energy).
 2. **Infrastructure upgrades**
 - Begin larger projects like solar panel installation on parish buildings.
 - Develop shared transport options or EV charge points
 3. **Progress measurement**
 - Conduct a mid review of emissions and other measurable impacts.
 - Share progress with the community to maintain engagement.
-

5+ Years: Long term goals

1. **Achieve key milestones**
 - Meet emissions reduction targets or complete conservation goals.
 - Finalise large-scale projects, such as a parish-wide renewable energy initiative.
2. **Sustainability integration**
 - Ensure new parish projects align with climate and nature goals.
 - Establish a routine process for updating and improving the action plan.
3. **Community celebration**
 - Celebrate progress with parish events or recognition programs.
 - Renew short- and medium-term goals to address evolving needs and keep the plan dynamic.

Use this timeline to map out what you need to do! Some points link out to sections in this document to give you more info.



Actions & Surrey resources

Actions you can take across specific areas with Surrey resources

- Explore practical actions across energy, transport, waste, and nature
- Access Surrey-specific schemes, funding, and support for local projects
- Find quick wins and long-term initiatives to boost sustainability
- Discover tools and partnerships to help deliver your parish's climate goals

Actions & Surrey resources

The following section, Actions and Resources, outlines a range of Surrey-based initiatives and tools to help parishes begin their journey toward sustainability. While not an exhaustive list, these suggestions provide practical ways to get started. They include a mix of local initiatives and actions, some offering quick wins and others requiring more long-term commitment, all designed to support meaningful progress in addressing climate change within the Surrey context.



Buildings

Energy assessment



Domestic

In Surrey we have a Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) who provide FREE in person energy advice. This service is delivered by trained community members via our partner Zero Carbon Guildford. They conduct the thermal imaging surveys at homes, and provide remedial measures for quick wins.

Following the survey, you will be signposted to the most relevant resources based on your circumstances. This might be a referral to funding programs, energy debt support, or, if you want to invest in long term energy saving measures you can be referred to the [Home Energy Improvement One Stop Shop](#) where you can find trusted installers for solar panels, insulation and air source heat pumps.

Support



Surrey County Council (SCC) has launched a Home Energy Improvement One-Stop Shop in partnership with Furbnow to help residents upgrade their homes with energy-saving measures like insulation, heat pumps, and solar panels. This initiative offers eligible homeowners a 60% discount on a Home Energy Plan and project management services.



The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) provides financial support for low-income households to improve energy efficiency. The Surrey Energy Advice Tool is an online resource that offers personalised recommendations to help residents reduce energy consumption and costs. These combined efforts aim to make homes more energy-efficient, comfortable, and environmentally friendly.

Switching

Community switching

Community energy switching is where a group of people in the community come together to switch their energy supplier as a collective. This approach can leverage the bargaining power of the group and negotiate better energy rates!

Participants typically sign up through a dedicated platform, and the program administrators can then negotiate with energy suppliers to secure the best deal for the group.

Community energy switches can also support wider goals by prioritising suppliers that offer green energy options, thereby reducing the community's overall carbon footprint

Check out Energy Savings Trust
for more details

Switching to renewable tariffs

This is a simple step to effectively reduce emissions. This can be done whether you rent, own your home or run a business.

For this, you can switch your own buildings and encourage residents to switch to renewables.



Parish owned buildings

New EPC regulations make it a requirement for landlords to obtain higher energy efficiency standards for both domestic and non domestic buildings. Non-domestic require a EPC E rating, and domestic requires an EPC rating of C.

You can get a whole building plan from a certified retrofit company, however understanding your building, systems and materials is a key starting point.

Understanding the building

- When do systems and material need to be replaced?
- Measure current usage and emissions
- What falls under your 'control'?
- What are the risks of not retrofitting?

What is needed?

- When do you need to meet EPC standards?
- Plan for both a light and deep retrofit plan

Draft a business case

- Look at the benefits beyond the legal compliance:
 - Reduced operating costs
 - Increased value
 - Avoiding penalties for non compliance

Identify barriers and opportunities

- Upfront costs
- Increased business rates
- Communicating changes

Targets

- Create a baseline so you can measure success
- I.e, Achieve a higher EPC rating
- Reduce operational energy
- Work towards net zero certifications

A standardised approach

- If you own multiple buildings it will be useful to create a standardised approach - this helps with planning for financial costs and priorities

Optimise existing operations

- If you own multiple buildings it will be useful to create a standardised approach - this helps with planning for financial costs and priorities

Use low carbon services and materials

- If you replacing anything, prioritise low carbon services and materials. I.e, renewable tariffs, LED lighting, building fabric and improving heating systems

Prioritise reuse

- There should be a priority on refurbishment
- Carbon life assessments will allow you to compare the impact against carbon savings

Review performance

- Set KPI's so you can measure your success and track progress
- There are also voluntary certification's you can apply for such as PAS2038:2001

Solar Together

Solar Together is a group buying scheme that allows you to join forces with your community to invest in solar panels, with optional battery storage and EV charging points. This scheme can also be used by small businesses and buildings.

If you already have solar panels, you can still participate in the scheme to buy battery storage - helping maximise your panels and increase your independence from the grid!

Register your interest for Solar Together here

Community energy

Community energy schemes are projects where local communities come together to generate, manage and sometimes distribute their own energy.

- **Local ownership and control:** The projects are often owned and controlled by the community members themselves, which means the benefits, such as profits and energy savings, stay within the community.
- **Renewable energy focus:** These schemes usually involve renewable energy generation, helping to reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainability.
- **Economic and social benefits:** Profits from these projects can be reinvested into the community, funding local initiatives and improving infrastructure. They also create local jobs and foster a sense of community cooperation.
- **Energy independence:** By generating their own energy, communities can reduce their reliance on the national grid, which can lead to greater energy security and potentially lower energy costs.
- **Environmental impact:** Community energy projects often aim to minimise their environmental impact, carefully selecting sites and technologies that are in harmony with the local landscape and biodiversity

Check out Surrey Community Energy

Transport

On demand bus service

On demand bus services is a flexible public transport option that adjusts its route and schedule to passenger requests.

This type of service is designed to be more convenient and efficient, especially in areas where traditional bus routes may not be practical. It's a great way to encourage people to use public transport!

Surrey Connect has incorporated electric mini buses into its fleet, allowing them to reduce their emissions and offer a greener transport option.

Available in:

- Mole Valley
- Farnham
- Cranleigh
- Tandridge
- Longcross
- West Guildford
- Runnymede
- Some areas of Surrey Heath
- Wider Guildford borough
- Waverley

[More information here](#)

Better Points

Surrey's BetterPoints is a rewards program designed to encourage sustainable travel and healthy living. By using the BetterPoints app, residents can earn points for activities like walking, cycling, using public transport, and even using on demand bus services. These points can then be redeemed for vouchers, spent at local businesses, or donated to charity.

Key features:

- Earn points: Accumulate points for every minute of active travel or for using public transport.
- Redeem rewards: Spend your points on high street vouchers, local businesses, or donate them to charity.
- Track your activity: The app automatically tracks your trips, making it easy to earn points without extra effort.
- Support local economy: By spending points locally, you help boost the local economy.

This initiative not only promotes a healthier lifestyle but also supports environmental sustainability by reducing carbon footprints and encouraging the use of eco-friendly transport options.

For business:

Try 'Carbon Crush' which is the employee version of Better Points

EV Charging

There are several different models you can use to create EV charging points in your parish.

SCC has currently has the largest contract of any UK local authority to deliver EV charging. Working with Connected Kerb we're aiming to install 10,000 charging points – and these could be free of charge for your parish (to be eligible the public must be able to access the chargers).

In this model, you do not get any income from charging, but you also don't pay any installation fees.

Surrey EV Chargepoint Interactive Map

Surrey have a EV Chargepoint interactive map that helps facilitate the installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the county. Residents can drop a pin on the map to suggest locations where they would like to see new EV chargepoints installed. Ideal locations are near residential properties with limited or no off street parking. The map provides updates on the installation progress and allows users to stay informed about new developments.

[Link to map](#)

Workspace charging scheme

The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a UK government initiative aimed at encouraging businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to install electric vehicle EV chargepoints at their workplaces. Here are the key points:

- **Voucher based scheme:** The WCS provides vouchers to cover up to 75% of the purchase and installation costs of EV chargepoints, capped at £350 per socket.
- **Eligibility:** The scheme is available to registered businesses, charities, and public sector organizations in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- **Application process:** Eligible applicants receive a unique voucher code after applying online, which they can use with authorised installers.
- **Limitations:** Each applicant can claim up to 40 sockets across all their sites.

This scheme helps reduce the upfront costs of installing EV infrastructure, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles in the workplace.

Cycle Training

Surrey County Council delivers Bikeability training to over 10,000 children in primary schools across Surrey, but did you know you can also request cycle training for your residents? Cycle training is delivered in very small groups and there are a range of courses to choose from including:

- Learn to Ride for Adults
- Independent Cycle to School
- Parent and Teen cycle training
- Introduction to Riding on Roads
- Adult Town Centre cycle confidence

Courses last for around two hours. Currently adult cycle training is offered for free, however this may change depending on funding. For more information, please email public.cycletraining@surreycc.gov.uk



Food & Waste

Here are some suggestions that can further support sustainable waste and food management:

Local reuse shops

Surrey's waste centres host reuse shops where residents can donate and purchase items like furniture, tools, and household goods, keeping valuable materials out of landfills. These shops provide affordable options while supporting a circular economy. Parishes can encourage residents to donate or shop here instead of discarding usable items.

Swaps

Seasonal swap events (e.g., clothing, books, toys) help residents exchange unwanted items rather than throw them away.

Promote local freecycle or Facebook groups where residents can give away items they no longer need. This digital solution complements in-person events by enabling continuous reuse within the community.

Composting initiatives

Composting at home can greatly reduce the amount of household food and garden waste sent to landfill. Parishes can promote composting by hosting workshops or providing guidance materials, encouraging residents to turn their organic waste into compost for gardens.

If there's available green space, parishes could set up a shared compost area for residents who don't have space at home. This communal resource helps manage food and garden waste sustainably.

Zero waste

Highlight nearby zero-waste stores or markets that allow shoppers to bring their own containers for bulk items, reducing single-use packaging. A parish could share a list of local zero-waste stores nearby.

Parishes could set up designated areas for collecting and exchanging reusable packaging materials like jars, containers, or cloth bags, providing a convenient option for residents to reduce waste.

Community fridge

A community fridge provides surplus food to the community which would have otherwise gone to waste! They help reduce food waste and combat food insecurity by allowing surplus food from households, businesses, and local gardens to be shared within the community.

Anyone can contribute or take food, fostering a sense of mutual aid and community support.



Case Study: ZERO

So far in 2024 alone they've...

- Supported 11,298.00 residents
- Prevented 26.2 tons of food waste
- Prevented 65 tons of CO₂e emissions
- Partners: Waitrose Aldi, Sainsbury, Tesco, M&S, Gails and Black Sheep
- 'It's only worth getting out of bed on Tuesday & Thursday to come to ZERO for the fridge. I really like it here, I like the people.'

Find a community
fridge

Sourcing Food

To run a Community Fridge you'll need a supply of food (and a fridge!) Where will you get the food? Approach local supermarkets, check they're prepared to donate food (they may give it all to Fareshare). Ask local bakers, sandwich shops etc.

Community Need

Is there another fridge nearby? Are you in a Priority Neighbourhood? Will the fridge get used, or will you just be an extra stop before it goes to waste?

Where will you put the fridge?

You'll also need somewhere secure to house the fridge. What community groups, local authority buildings, charities might you team up with?

Repair cafe

A Repair Café is a community event where people can bring their broken items to be fixed by skilled volunteers. These events are designed to reduce waste, promote sustainability, and encourage a culture of repair rather than disposal.

They are also a great way to help residents upskill *and* to relieve isolation.



Farnham repair cafe

So far:

- 81 events held
- 1,910 repairs completed
- 5.4 Tonnes of landfill diverted
- £155,593 saved by citizens
- 51 Tonnes of CO2e avoided
- 98% customer satisfaction

[Find a repair cafe](#)

Community Need

Is there another repair café nearby? Are you in a Priority Neighbourhood? Will the café be used?

What will you fix?

Once you establish the needs of the community it will help you decide what you should prioritise in your repairs. Will you mend clothes, refurbish bikes, fix electronics, upholster furniture?

This will determine the skills set you require, and what tools you'll need to secure.

Land Use & Nature

Water health

Steps to get involved in water monitoring:

- **Identify key areas:** Get a clear picture of the water bodies within your parish. This includes identifying any rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands. Start to identify potential pollution sources
- **Reach out to local water quality groups:** Contact groups like Water Rangers, the Rivers Trust, or the Environment Agency to find out how you can join or support their water quality monitoring efforts.
- **Organise a volunteer group:** Encourage residents to get involved in monitoring water quality. Volunteers can be trained to test water for pollutants such as nitrates, phosphates, and pH levels, and track changes over time.
- **Conduct regular water testing:** Once trained, your parish can conduct regular tests of local water bodies, building a clear picture of water health. This data can be shared with regional or national bodies to contribute to broader environmental monitoring efforts.

[Find out more](#)

SCC Tree Scheme

Surrey County Council has a free tree giveaway scheme aimed at enhancing green spaces. Here are some key points about the scheme:

- **Tree giveaway events:** The council organizes tree giveaway events at various locations, such as libraries. For example, an upcoming event is scheduled for February 3rd, where residents can pick up a free tree on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Planting and care:** Recipients are encouraged to plant the trees within a week of collection. The council provides a care leaflet to help ensure the trees are planted and maintained properly.
- **1.2 Million tree strategy:** This initiative is part of Surrey County Council's broader strategy to plant 1.2 million trees by 2030. The goal is to combat climate change and improve local biodiversity.
- **Community involvement:** The council also organises volunteer tree planting events, allowing community members to actively participate in the planting process and contribute to the environment.

[Find out more](#)

Blue heart verge

A "Blue Heart Verge" is a designated verge or green space left unmown to encourage biodiversity. A blue heart marker—signals to the community that the area is a deliberate conservation effort, promoting wildflowers, pollinators, and other wildlife.

For a parish to get involved, you can:

1. Identify suitable spaces: Choose verges or small patches of land where mowing can be reduced or adapted.
2. Engage the community: Inform residents about the purpose and benefits of Blue Heart Verges through signage, meetings, or social media.
3. Apply via Surrey County Council: Complete the online form available on the Surrey Highways Issue Reporting Portal to request a verge be left unmown. Including photos of the proposed site and consulting nearby residents can strengthen your application.
4. Install Blue Heart Markers: Once approved, you can install blue heart signs to indicate the verge is part of a rewilding initiative.

[Find out more](#)



Decarbonisation assessment and loan from SCC

The Decarbonisation Assessment and Loan program by Surrey County Council is designed to help businesses and organisations reduce their carbon emissions. Here's how it works:

1. Decarbonisation assessment:

- **Energy audit:** An expert conducts a thorough energy audit of your premises to identify areas where energy efficiency can be improved and carbon emissions reduced.
- **Recommendations:** Based on the audit, you'll receive a detailed report with recommendations for energy-saving measures and potential upgrades to more sustainable technologies.

2. Loan for implementation:

- **Financial support:** SCC offers loans to help cover the costs of implementing the recommended energy efficiency measures. This financial support makes it easier for businesses to invest in sustainable practices without bearing the full upfront cost.
- **Repayment terms:** The loans typically come with favorable repayment terms, making it financially manageable for businesses to repay the loan over time while benefiting from reduced energy costs.

[Find out more](#)

Your Councillor Community Fund

The Surrey Your Councillor Community Fund is a grant program managed by Surrey County Council, where each Councillor is allocated £5,000 annually to support local community projects. This fund allows Councillors to use their local knowledge and insight to fund projects that will benefit their communities.

[Find out more](#)

Get started!

- Follow a step-by-step timeline to build your parish's action plan
- Identify key actions, assign responsibilities, and set SMART goals
- Use the provided template to structure your plan and track progress
- Access quick wins, engagement ideas, and funding opportunities to begin implementation

Tell your story

Why should you tell your story?

Inspire community engagement

- Sharing the process of developing a climate action plan can help community members feel more connected to the plan and more likely to contribute. When people see the steps taken, they understand the purpose and become motivated to join in.

Build trust and transparency

- Openly discussing the planning journey builds trust. It shows that the parish has carefully considered community needs and environmental impact, which can reassure members and stakeholders.

Encourage accountability

- Regularly updating the community on progress holds the parish accountable and makes it easier for people to track milestones. This accountability can help ensure the parish stays on course with its goals.

Set a positive example for other parishes

- Sharing successes, challenges, and lessons learned can inspire other parishes or local councils to start their own initiatives, helping to spread positive climate action on a wider scale.

Celebrate community and progress

- Storytelling allows the parish to recognise and celebrate contributions from individuals, local businesses, and groups. Acknowledging these efforts keeps spirits high and fosters a sense of shared achievement.

A structure to start this can be found on the template.



Raise money

Long terms funding

- **Establish a parish climate fund:** Build a designated fund for climate initiatives, where Parish funds, event proceeds, and sponsorship's are directed. This fund could finance both immediate actions and future projects.
- **Explore loan opportunities for larger projects:** For big investments like solar installations, some community banks and ethical lenders (like Triodos Bank) offer low-interest loans for sustainability projects. These loans can be repaid gradually through energy savings or other project benefits.

Building partnerships

- **Collaborate with local organisations:** Partner with nearby schools, environmental non government organisations (NGO), or community groups to share resources and apply for joint grants. Partnerships can also attract funders looking to support collaborative initiatives.
- **Corporate sponsorship and CSR funds:** Approach local companies about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities. Many companies are willing to fund local sustainability projects as part of their CSR commitments.

Seeking grants

Identify potential grants: Many UK organisations and government bodies offer grants for community-led environmental projects.

Some key sources include:

- **National Lottery community fund:** Provides grants for community projects, including those focused on sustainability and nature.
- **The Woodland Trust:** Offers free trees and sometimes funding for planting projects.
- **DEFRA's Local Authority Treescapes Fund:** Available for tree planting in urban and rural areas.
- **The Climate Action Fund (National Lottery):** Funds projects that tackle climate change through community action.
- **Groundwork UK:** Supports projects on environmental improvements and building community green spaces.

Use grant databases and directories:

- **Funding central:** A database for UK grants, suitable for smaller community organisations.
- **GrantNav:** Lists grants from various UK funders, searchable by location and project type.
- **Charity excellence framework:** Offers a funding finder tool with various grant options, including those for environmental and community projects.

Support local action

Educate and raise awareness

- **Workshops and talks:** Host regular events to educate parish members on climate change, sustainable practices, and how they can contribute. Topics could include home energy efficiency, sustainable gardening, or waste reduction.
- **Communication:** Use newsletters, social media, and parish websites to share information, tips, and success stories. Keep the community informed on climate issues and progress on parish initiatives.
- **Invite guest speakers:** Bring in local environmental experts or activists who can share knowledge and inspire local action.

Knowledge sharing

- Linking up with other parishes and sharing knowledge creates a more resilient and connected approach to climate action.
 - Via Surrey Climate Commission we have created a peer-to-peer network where you can chat with other parishes, to discuss ongoing projects, share what's working well, and seek advice on obstacles.

Local action network

- **Connect with local environmental groups:** Partner with existing environmental organisations, conservation charities, or local government initiatives to share resources and align goals.
- **Form a parish climate action group:** Invite community members to join a committee dedicated to implementing and supporting climate initiatives. This group can provide ideas, organise events, and act as a link between the parish council and the wider community.
- **Involve local schools:** Work with schools on projects such as tree planting, recycling, or climate education.

Decision making

A climate action plan can guide decision-making by setting priorities, aligning spending, and ensuring actions have measurable environmental benefits.

Set priorities

The plan outlines specific climate goals, like reducing emissions or enhancing biodiversity. When choosing new projects, you can prioritise initiatives that align with these goals, like opting for renewable energy sources or eco-friendly building materials.

Having clear goals around sustainability helps avoid “ad-hoc” or reactive decisions and ensures that every action contributes to the parish long-term objectives.

Sustainability policies

The plan encourages decisions on low-carbon purchasing and contracting, which can guide tenders or supplier agreements toward suppliers with sustainable practices.

It can also help set a precedent for decisions that benefit public health, such as reducing air pollution. Engaging residents around these goals builds support and encourages community-wide action.

Budgeting and resources

The action plan can highlight priority areas, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, or sustainable transport. This helps allocate funds to initiatives that drive measurable impact, focusing resources on high-priority emissions reductions or nature restoration.

Regularly reviewing expenditures against climate goals (e.g., via carbon accounting methods or emissions factors) can identify and redirect spending toward greener alternatives in procurement, utilities, and services.

Track and adjust

A climate action plan includes measurable goals and KPIs (like emission reduction targets), which can be used to evaluate the impact of decisions over time. If targets aren’t met, the parish can adjust actions or adopt new strategies to stay on course.

Regular assessment of decisions against climate metrics allows for adjustments in policy, budget, or project focus. This adaptability ensures that the parish stays responsive to changing climate conditions or new opportunities, like funding for green infrastructure.

Reporting

To set up regular reporting on their climate and nature action plan, establish a structured reporting system with simple tools to track progress, collect data, and communicate outcomes effectively. Here's how:

Create a schedule

- **Annual reports:** These provide a detailed overview of progress, challenges, and any adjustments to goals or actions. An annual report can include emissions reductions, biodiversity improvements, and public engagement updates.
- **Quarterly or biannual updates:** Shorter updates allow for monitoring ongoing projects and making necessary adjustments more frequently. These can include updates on energy usage, waste reduction, or project-specific progress.

Track

- **Designate responsibility:** Assign roles to parish members or committees for tracking specific areas like emissions, nature, or community involvement. This ensures accountability and consistency in data collection.
- **Digital tracking tools:** Use tools like Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets for simple tracking. These tools allow for real-time data entry, easy sharing, and clear visualisation.

Community dashboard

- **Public reporting:** Share data on a public dashboard or the parish website to keep the community informed and involved. Try creating visual representation of progress, making the data easy to understand and engaging for residents.
- **Feedback collection:** Incorporate a section for community feedback to gather residents' thoughts on the parish climate progress. This allows for ongoing community engagement and new ideas.

Benchmark and compare

- **Compare with other parishes:** Regularly compare performance with other parishes or councils to identify best practices. Tools like SCATTER (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) can support regional alignment and goal setting, helping to keep the parish on track with broader climate goals.

Extra resources

This section includes extra resources and information that you might find useful in developing your Climate and Nature action plans!

Carbon Budget

You may require additional methods to help calculate data. This could include using financial records, like spending or purchasing details, and working with suppliers to get information about their activities. By also using established emissions factors—standard figures to estimate emissions—you can create a clear and reliable system for tracking the parish impact.

Per pound expenditure method

Begin by categorising expenditures, such as office supplies, utilities, and services, and then use DEFRA's GHG Conversion Factors for Purchased Goods and Services. These factors translate financial outlays into carbon emissions based on industry averages (e.g., CO₂e per £ spent on different categories like office supplies, construction, and maintenance). This method provides a baseline for emissions tied to spending.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

Accounting software

As mentioned some accounting software, like Sage, Xero, or QuickBooks, allows for detailed tracking and categorisation of expenditures, making it easier to align spending with DEFRA's conversion factors.

Collaborate

For high-emission purchases, you can reach out to suppliers directly to request emissions data related to the goods or services they provide. Some suppliers may already have data or can provide estimates, particularly in sectors like energy, construction, and waste management. This can yield more precise data than industry averages.

Calculating

There are different tools you can use to help you measure your emissions. Some accounting software also have a built in calculator.

Impact tool

As mentioned, this tool is designed to help parishes and small communities estimate emissions based on typical data sources and local input.

Access: Available for free online; requires only a postcode to get started.

[Link](#)

SCATTER Tool

Although designed for cities, SCATTER can be useful for parishes with substantial data on local energy, transportation, and waste management.

Access: Free for UK public sector organisations and community groups.

[Link](#)

Local Footprint Project

Part of the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds, this tool allows local authorities, parishes, and communities to assess their carbon footprint based on publicly available data.

Access: Requires an application and may be more suited to parishes with support staff.

[Link](#)

Carbon Trust

Although initially designed for small businesses, this tool can be useful for parishes with straightforward energy and fuel use data.

Access: Free to use on the Carbon Trust website.

[Link](#)

UK Government Greenhouse Gas Reporting Conversion Factors

Not a calculator, but a dataset with updated emissions factors that can be used to convert activity data (like kWh of energy or litres of fuel) into emissions.

[Link](#)

Free Surrey decarbonisation course

Although initially designed for small businesses, this course can be useful for parishes to find out how to cut costs and how to calculate your footprint.

Access: Year subscription when you take this course

[Link](#)

Engagement workshop draft

Here's a structured outline to get you started in running an engagement session to consult on your priorities:

Logistics and Agenda Guide

1. Objectives

- Discuss parish priorities.
- Initiate the creation of a climate engagement plan.

2. Timings

- Arrival and Registration: 09:00 - 09:30
- Welcome and Introduction: 09:30 - 09:45
- Session 1: Identifying Priorities: 09:45 - 11:00
- Break: 11:00 - 11:15
- Session 2: Climate Engagement Planning: 11:15 - 12:30
- Lunch: 12:30 - 13:30
- Session 3: Group Discussions and Feedback: 13:30 - 15:00
- Closing Remarks and Next Steps: 15:00 - 15:30

3. Preparation

- Materials Needed:
 - Flip charts, markers, sticky notes.
 - Printed agendas and handouts.
 - Projector and screen for presentations.
- Pre-Session Tasks:
 - Send out invitations and reminders.
 - Prepare and distribute pre-reading materials.
 - Arrange for refreshments and lunch.
 - Set up the venue with necessary equipment and seating arrangements.

4. Venue

- Location: [Insert Venue Name and Address]
- Facilities:
 - Ensure the venue has adequate seating and space for group activities.
 - Check for accessibility features.
 - Arrange for audio-visual equipment setup.
 - Confirm availability of Wi-Fi and other necessary amenities.

5. Facilitators

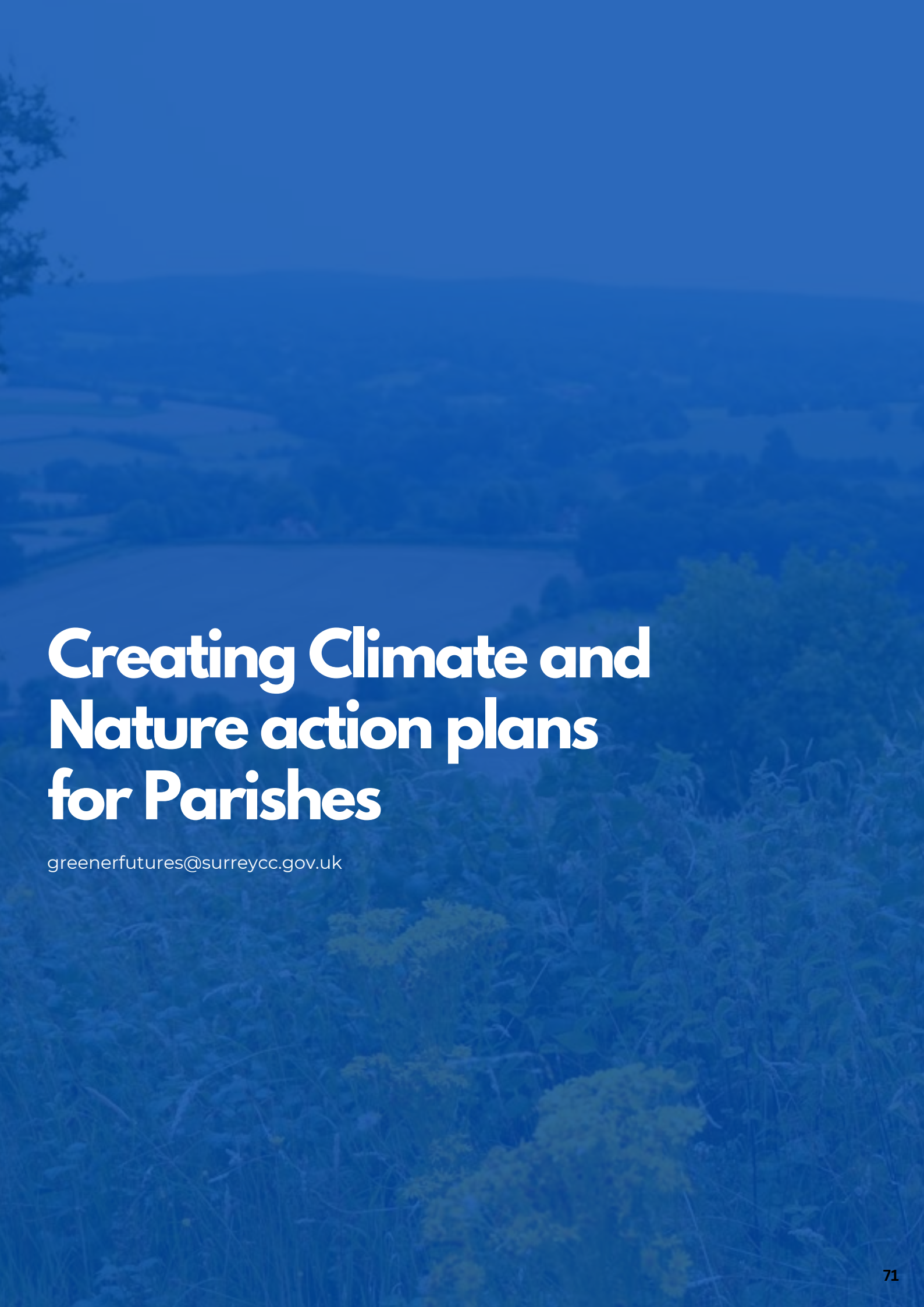
- Lead Facilitator:
 - Role: Guide the overall session, keep time, and ensure objectives are met.
 - Preparation: Familiarise with the agenda, prepare opening and closing remarks.
- Session Facilitators:
 - Role: Lead specific sessions, facilitate discussions, and manage group activities.
 - Preparation: Prepare session materials, coordinate with the lead facilitator, and engage with participants.

6. Agenda Details

- Welcome and Introduction:
 - Brief overview of the session's purpose and objectives.
 - Introduction of facilitators and participants.
- Session 1: Identifying Priorities:
 - Interactive discussion to identify key priorities for the Parish.
 - Use of flip charts and sticky notes for brainstorming.
- Session 2: Climate Engagement Planning:
 - Presentation on climate engagement strategies.
 - Group activities to draft initial plans.
- Session 3: Group Discussions and Feedback:
 - Breakout groups to discuss specific topics.
 - Collect feedback and consolidate ideas.
- Closing Remarks and Next Steps:
 - Summarise key points and outcomes.
 - Outline next steps and follow-up actions.

Feel free to adjust the timings and details to better fit your Parish needs.





Creating Climate and Nature action plans for Parishes

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