

# Towards a Climate Resilient Somerset

## Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy



## Climate Emergency Strategy


Since last update;

- Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy was finalised and a Summary Strategy produced
- the Strategy presented at the various Scrutiny, Cabinet/Executive and Full Councils of the 5 Councils
- the Strategy was **adopted** in full by all 5 Somerset Local Authorities November 2020
- the Strategy (and the supporting documents) now all available on Somerset Climate Emergency Website [Climate emergency \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency)

## Implementing the Strategy

Following adoption, the focus now moves to implementation.

This requires further political oversight, scrutiny and the involvement of a broad spectrum of Members, Officers, communities of interest and partners to;

- ensure the aims of the Strategy is implemented in the agreed timescales
  - ensure shared actions are regularly reviewed and revised in light of emerging national and local policy, technological developments and funding opportunities
  - allow and facilitate wide ranging community engagement
  - provide challenge to the impact and pace of delivery
  - support the measurement and monitoring of progress against agreed Goals and Outcomes
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## **Implementing the Strategy (continued)**


### **Governance**

The first priority will be to establish a suitable Governance structure

This will likely involve:

- a Senior Leadership group
- an Implementation Board
- an independent Member Scrutiny function
- a management group
- various workstream or project groups
- a Community Forum

The various groups will be responsible for:

- Prioritising actions, programme management and delivery against targets
  - Allocating funding, resourcing projects
  - Collaborative working, identifying efficiencies, communicating progress
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## Key Actions

Since adoption of the Strategy, some key projects have been identified to be funded and resourced

- These include;
  - **Commercial Waste Contract Review:**  
Analysis of existing Commercial Waste contracts across the 5 Councils
  - **Energy Planning:**  
Work with WPD and SSEN and other key partners to develop a Countywide Energy Plan
  - **Scoping Renewable Energy Potential and Opportunities**  
Identifying potential Renewable Energy opportunities on Council owned assets

Also early stages of developing a **Communications and Engagement Plan**



# Electric Vehicle Strategy

The 5 Somerset Councils have also commissioned a Countywide Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy

## **The Strategy;**

- Sets the scene for EV's
- Provides a market review
- Somerset Baseline of existing infrastructure
- Forecast for uptake

## **Recommendations:** 24 recommendations identified

- Lead by example
- Home & workplace charging,
- Fleet reviews,
- Policy changes etc

## **Adoption and Implementation:**

- All 5 Councils to seeking to adopt
- Recommendations into action

# Climate Emergency Actions Progressed

## **E-scooter pilots**

Somerset West and Taunton (SWaT) and South Somerset District Council (SSDC) successful rollout of Electric Scooter pilots

- Taunton - 30,000 miles travelled since Oct 2020 with 6,000 registered users
- Yeovil - 28,000 miles travelled since mid Oct 2020 – 6,800 journeys

## **EV chargers**

SWaT - 3 EV chargers in Taunton by late Spring

SSDC – procuring EV chargers for 25 Council car parks (DELETTI project)

## **Green Homes Grants**

bids submitted by the District Councils for funding from the Green Homes Grant to tackle energy efficiency in 'hard to treat homes' across Somerset

## **Carbon Literacy Training**

Carbon literacy Training delivered to Members

# **Climate Emergency Actions Continued**

## **Low Carbon Skills Grant Fund**

Successful £30k bid by SCC for design and project management for decarbonisation initiatives at a number of SCC properties

## **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

Successful £311k bid by SCC for energy improvements and heat decarbonisation measures at Yeovil Library

## **Green Recovery Challenge Fund**

Mendip Hills AONB successful £249k bid to the to enhance connections for wildlife and transitional habitats between the Hills and the Levels.

## **SCC £1m Climate Emergency Community Fund**

£1m fund for Parish and Town Councils across Somerset for Climate Change initiatives  
Around 140 applications and over-subscribed

Early stages of assessing applications – Successful applicants informed in April