

**Surrey's
Greener
Future**

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GREENER FUTURES CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY PLAN

2021–2025

I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHY SURREY HAS PRIORITISED ITS GREENER FUTURES

We can no longer think of climate change as a problem for the futureⁱ.

It is already affecting the lives of millions of people across the globe, including those who live and work in Surrey. This Delivery Plan is the first phase of a 30-year plan to realise the ambitions set out in **Surrey's Climate Change Strategyⁱⁱ**. It shows how everyone in Surrey can pull together to reduce carbon¹ emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Through climate action, we can also make Surrey a cleaner, healthier place with vibrant communities and a thriving economy.

ⁱFor the purposes of this document "carbon" refers to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.



“Through collective climate action,
we make Surrey a cleaner, healthier
place with vibrant communities and
a thriving economy”



Residents

Business

Surrey County
Council

Local
Authorities

Public
Sector

Academia



Less fuel poverty



Cleaner air



Thriving communities



Connective
infrastructure



WORKING TOGETHER FOR FOLLOWING BENEFITS



Accessible green spaces



Less waste



Strong local economy



Greater lobbying power

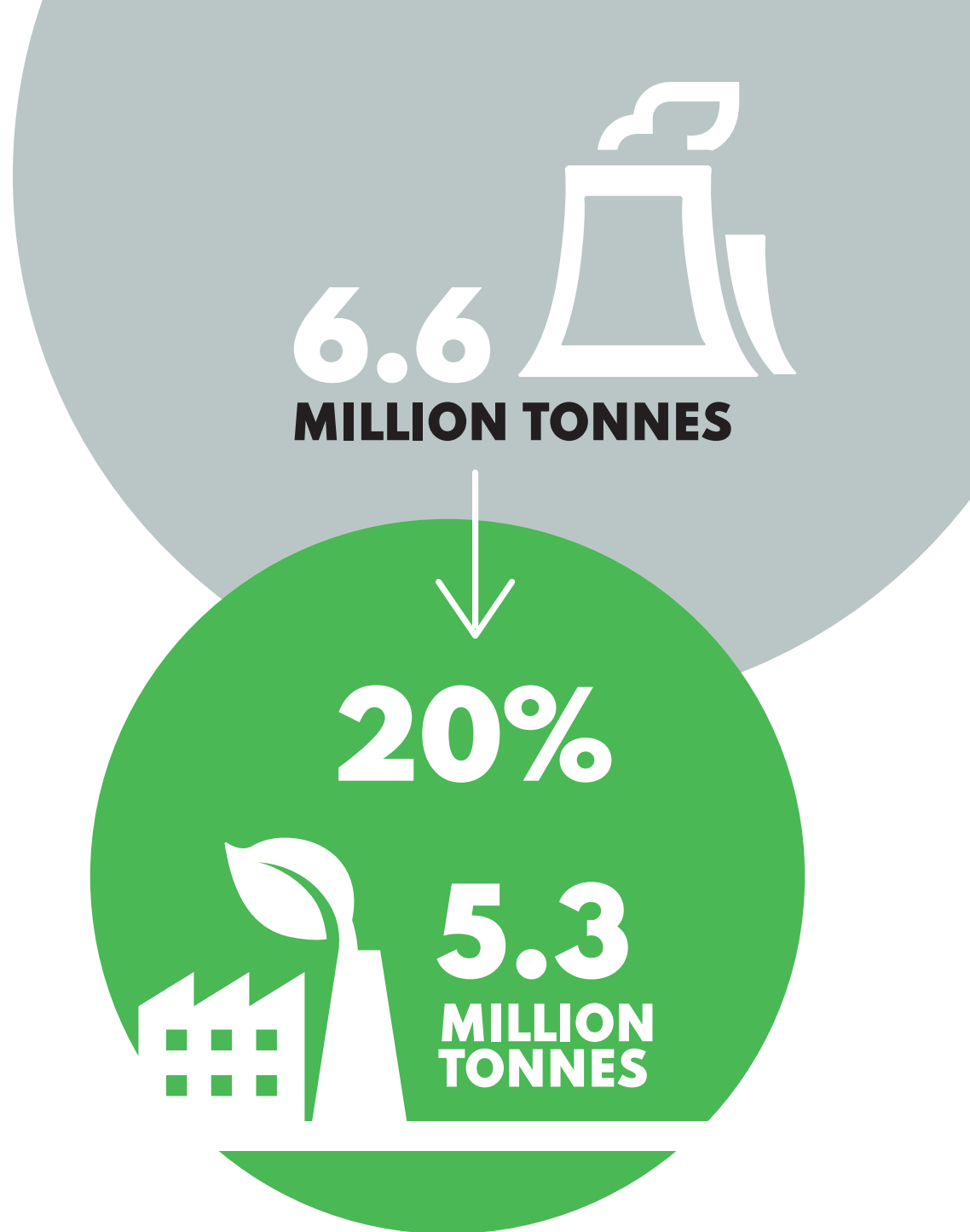
WHAT SURREY NEEDS TO DO TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2018, Surrey produced around 6.6 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

To be in keeping with Surrey's 2050 net-zero target, carbon emissions need to reduce by at **least 20%**² by 2025.

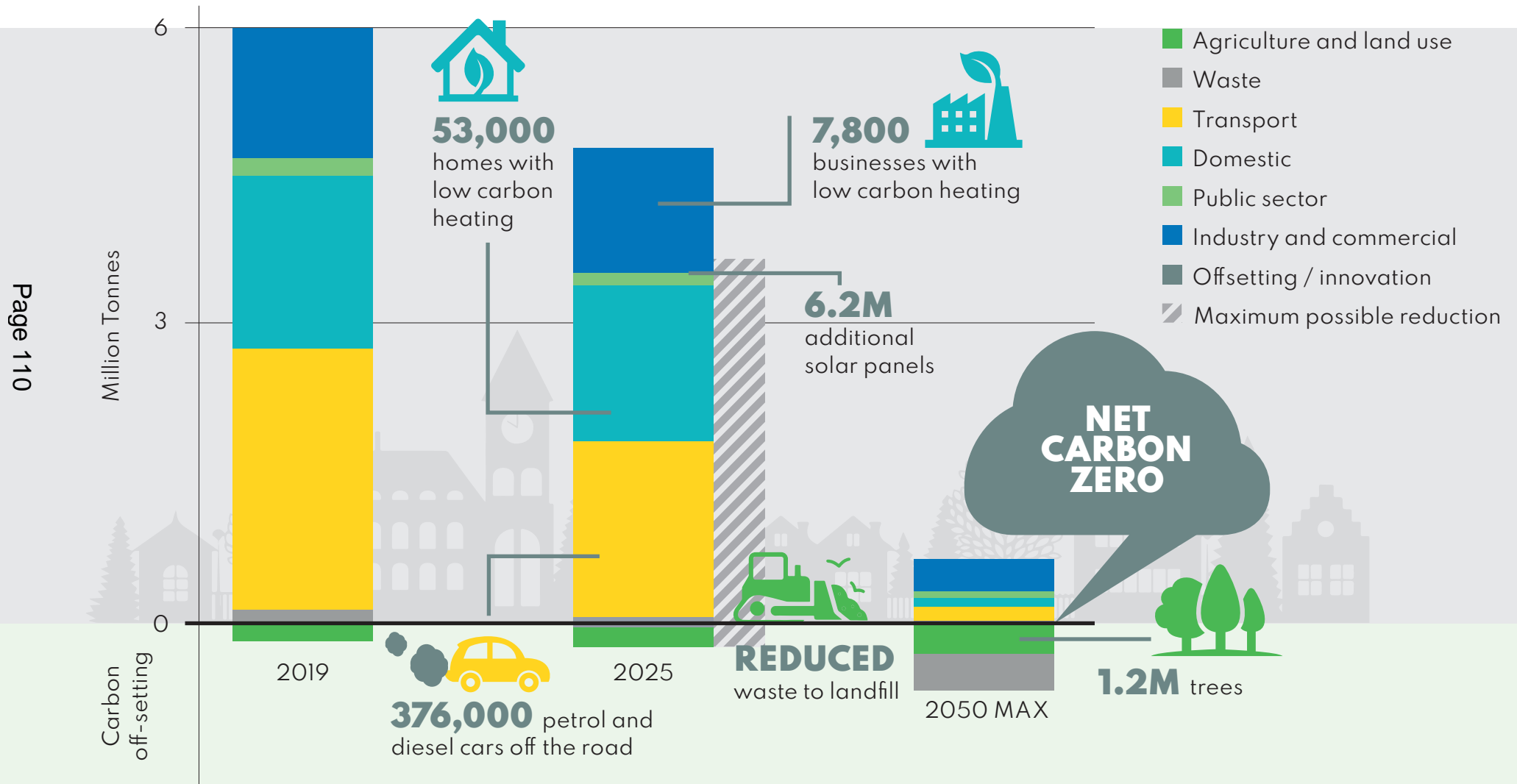
To achieve this level of reduction, the county needs to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by moving away from petrol and diesel vehicles and gas heating, reducing energy consumption and increasing the local production of renewable energy. We also need to reduce the carbon impact of goods and services consumed by Surrey's residents, enhance the carbon-absorbing properties of Surrey's land, and adapt to a change in our climate to wetter winters and hotter summers.

²Against the baseline emissions estimate in 2018.



OUR PATHWAY TO NET ZERO.

REDUCTION OF 1.3M TONNES OF CARBON REDUCTION BY 2025



WHERE THE CHANGE WILL OCCUR

A complex problem requires a shared solution which will affect the lives of everyone who lives, works and visits Surrey.

Seemingly small changes to the lives of individuals, neighbourhoods, businesses and public services add up to real progress, which can be amplified even further when we work in partnership. The four areas of focus presented in this delivery plan reflect where changes need to happen: in our communities (Greener Futures Communities), our public sector (One Net Zero Public Estate), our supporting infrastructure (Build Back Greener) and our land (Grow back Greener). However, no matter how ambitious we are as a county, some obstacles cannot be overcome without changes to national government policies and a substantial increase in funding³; making lobbying Government and attracting greater investment a key part of this plan.

³Key asks for National Government are set out in Surrey's Climate Change Strategy.



THE ROLE OF SURREY'S LOCAL AUTHORITIES⁴

With over 99% of emissions beyond our direct control, Local Authorities cannot achieve a net-zero county alone, but we recognise that we have an important role to play.

Around 70 actions have been identified⁵ that are designed to enable others to act, facilitate necessary infrastructure, provide leadership in meeting ambitious organisational emissions targets, and be a leading voice in affecting change outside of Surrey's boundaries.

⁴ Local Authorities refers to Surrey County Council and the 11 borough and district councils that govern at a more local level.

⁵ Some actions will be undertaken by Surrey County Council, some by individual boroughs and districts and some by all Local Authorities..



**DELIVERY PLAN
PROGRAMMES:**



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GREENER FUTURES COMMUNITIES

Aim: To empower individuals, businesses and communities to make reduce emissions in their own homes, communities and workplaces.

The role of Residents and Businesses

Individuals can reduce their carbon footprint by changing the way they travel, shop, eat and reduce waste.

Home owners, landlord and developers can create energy efficient buildings which use low-carbon heat pumps, and maximise on-site renewable energy.



Local Authority Priorities by 2025

Enabling residents:

- Support up to 20% of elderly residents, low income and off gas households to be warm, reduce bills and decarbonise by accessing Sustainable Warmth national grant funding.
- Encourage carbon emissions reduction in the private-rented sector by enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards and developing a loan scheme for low carbon improvements.
- Accelerate uptake of solar panels to around 10% of residential homes through the Solar Together Scheme.
- Support a move towards active and sustainable travel through a range of measures set out in the draft Surrey Local Transport Planiii.

Businesses can set ambitious climate reduction targets and offer low carbon goods and services to residents.



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Communities can work to improve neighbourhoods by supporting community energy, planting, active travel, sustainable commerce and waste reduction projects.

Enabling Business:

- Offer small businesses LoCASE grants to improve the sustainability of their businesses.
- Support the creation of job opportunities and job transfers to the green skills market through the development of a Green Skills Academy.

Enabling Communities:

- Encourage the expansion of community energy through the Community Energy Pathway which provides the skills needed to undertake community energy projects.
- Support sustainable community projects through Your Fund Surrey and empower the voluntary, community and faith sectors.
- Support the creation of local and sustainable options to travel, work and buy goods and services sustainably.

CO₂ ONE NET ZERO PUBLIC ESTATE

Aim: Local Authorities and other public sector organisations to reduce carbon emissions from their own buildings, vehicle and supply chains

What Public Sector can do

Local Authorities, Surrey County Council, NHS, Police and others in the Public sector can set ambitious targets to reduce emissions across their organisations, services and supply chains; putting sustainability at the heart of every decision.

Local Authority Priorities by 2025

- Work towards a net zero target of 2030 by achieving a 40% emission reduction in Local Authority buildings and vehicles.
- Support the decarbonisation of schools and other public sector buildings.
- Maximise renewable energy such as solar power on public land.
- Drive down emissions from public services including waste management, highways maintenance and social care by putting in place low carbon procurement policies.
- Encourage public sector staff to act sustainably in the way that they travel and carry out their work.



BUILD BACK GREENER

Aim: Design with climate in mind to ensure that planning decisions, regeneration projects and major infrastructure are ready for a zero-carbon future and are adapted to the deal with the impacts of climate change on people and wildlife.

The role of planning, place-making and development

Planning authorities and developers can ensure that everything we build is fit for a low carbon future, by designing net-zero developments which are adapted to the impacts of climate change, and achieve biodiversity net-gain.

Local Authority Priorities by 2025

- Implement the Surrey Infrastructure Plan to ensure that Local Authority projects have high sustainability standards.
- Support low carbon planning decisions by producing guidance that is in keeping with net zero carbon targets.
- Develop a surrey-wide transport network that prioritises walking, cycling, public transport, electric vehicle charging and enable a major upgrade in telecommunications.
- Support the transformation of a low carbon energy system by considering Surrey's potential for solar panels and heat networks.
- Protect residents against the impacts of extreme weather through the development a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan and implement the Flood Management Strategy and Action Plan.



GROW BACK GREENER

Aim: Manage woodland, green spaces and farmland to maximise the ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere, grow food sustainably and improve habitats needed for wildlife to thrive.

The role of Land Management

Land owners and managers, including Local Authorities, can help carbon-capture, reduce flooding and support biodiversity through improved management of green spaces.



Local Authority Priorities by 2025

- Develop a Land Management Framework to ensure that many benefits of land are taken into consideration, including carbon, biodiversity and flood protection.
- Bring 3330ha woodland back into management and facilitate the planting of 600,000 trees and hedgerows to low in more carbon, increase biodiversity and supply sustainable timber and wood fuel.

HOW OUR SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED?

It is likely that the plan will need to be adapted to take into account changes to funding opportunities, technologies and market forces. Surrey County Council will track carbon emissions and publish progress against our net-zero targets on the Surrey County Council website. Progress will be regularly reviewed by the Greener Futures Board, who will be responsible for monitoring performance, suggesting improvements and lobbying Government. We will provide regular forums for partners and residents to feedback, in order to continually improve our impact.

The Greener Future Board brings together a powerful alliance of key stakeholders to support the Delivery Plan, and steer its progress. They will work with a network of partners to mobilise climate action across the county alongside wider social, health and economic benefits.

¹Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th Assessment Report, August 2021: <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

²Surrey's Climate Change Strategy, Surrey County Council, May 2020: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/225615/Surreys-Climate-Change-Strategy-2020.pdf

³Local Transport Plan 2022-2032, July 2021; <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/surreyltp4/Surrey%20Transport%20Plan.pdf>



ⁱIntergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th Assessment Report, August 2021: <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

ⁱⁱSurrey's Climate Change Strategy, Surrey County Council, May 2020: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/225615/Surreys-Climate-Change-Strategy-2020.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱLocal Transport Plan 2022-2032, July 2021; <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/surreyltp4/Surrey%20Transport%20Plan.pdf>