

Dear Resident

I know that many are concerned about our changing climate so I thought, as your County Councillor that I would tell you some of the steps that Essex County Council is taking.

We are replacing all our 127,000 plus streetlights with LEDs

We are supporting residents to purchase solar panels, saving 300 tonnes of carbon in year

We are installing solar power on our buildings and Essex Housing developments, saving 258 tonnes of CO2

We are removing single use plastics across our estate

We have almost nearly 50% of our workforce is using reusable coffee cups

We are converting 60 buses to be to Euro VI

We are encouraging residents to use public transport by improving the park and ride, installing electric vehicle charging points and encouraging cycling

We are developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy

We have created 63km of wild roadside verges

We have protected 1000 properties from flooding, often using innovative low carbon techniques such as Leaky Dams

We are recycling 90% of materials linked to our highways’ works

We are using sustainable materials on highways, like the innovative, award-winning use of bamboo to protect structures.

We are working to ensure new Garden Communities are sustainable. Our ambition is for tens of thousands of new homes, entire communities of the future built to be as energy efficiently as possible

We are establishing a Climate Change Commission with an initial budget of £250,000 to look at what more we can do and help residents to do.

We are considering changing procurement rules requiring suppliers to adopt more stringent sustainable practices;

We are aligning with Defra's Recycling & Waste strategy, ensuring we have Zero Avoidable Waste by 2050 and exploring how to achieve the government target on net zero carbon sooner than 2050

We are supporting the Greening of Town Centres by setting up a Green Essex Network

We are looking at buying green energy and generating more of our own renewable energy

We are taking advantage of new innovations. As an example of this, Essex Highways are exploring warm tarmac, - if rolled out across the country it would save at least 61,000 tonnes of CO2 - the equivalent of almost 300 million car journeys

We have committed to a million pound tree planting project. Known as the ‘Essex Forest Initiative’, which will involve planting 375,000 trees across the County over the next 5 years, equivalent to the size of 210 football pitches. If you know of a site, we can use please let me know.

Essex County Council is committed to these and more actions to reduce its carbon footprint. If you have other ideas do let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and. as always if there are issues that I can assist with please do contact me on 01245 231250 or [susan.barker@essex.gov.uk](mailto:susan.barker@essex.gov.uk). I look forward to hearing from you.



Cllr Susan Barker

*Cabinet Member  Customer, Corporate, Culture and Communities*

*Member for Great Dunmow Division*

*Chairman Stansted Airport Community Trust*

*Chairman Essex Pension Fund*

*Conservative Leader Uttlesford District Council*

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