

Annual Climate Conference 2024

On Wednesday 6th November 2024, Huntingdonshire District Council held its 2nd Annual Climate Conference. This was a jam-packed day with keynote speakers, panels and surgery sessions all with the aim of networking and sharing projects that have taken place in the name of tackling climate change.



Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray opened the event with some important points in her 'welcome' speech:

- Do you want to know the truth? It's already **too late** to stop climate change!
- Those who create the least amount of carbon emissions, feel the effects the most
- Climate action is hard work and uncomfortable, so why do it?
- Anyone can make changes no matter how small the change but we need to be quick!
- We can adapt our villages and towns to prepare for what is coming and Huntingdonshire can do this together

We **can** and **will** come to you if you need some support - contact details are at the bottom of this report.



Delivering Futures - Today

Together, we have a community of people who truly believe that our district has a brilliant future ahead. Here's how Futures fitted into our day!



Open Eco Homes Retrofit at Scale



Biodiversity Measurement Local Plan



Procurement with Purpose



Engaging Children in Climate

HDC's Path to Carbon Net Zero

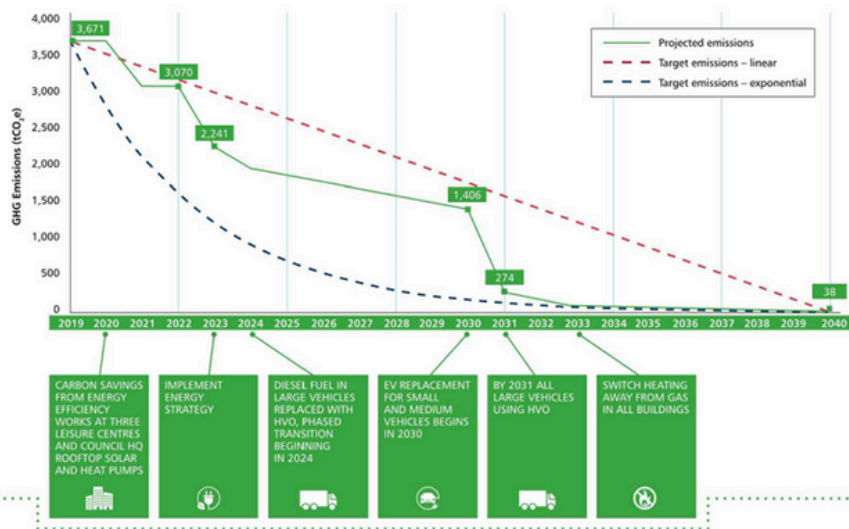
Our Pathway to Carbon Net Zero 2040

The red and blue show two target lines we could follow.

Green shows the impact of the changes we expect to make through our current action plan to reduce emissions, based on what is currently known about improving technology.

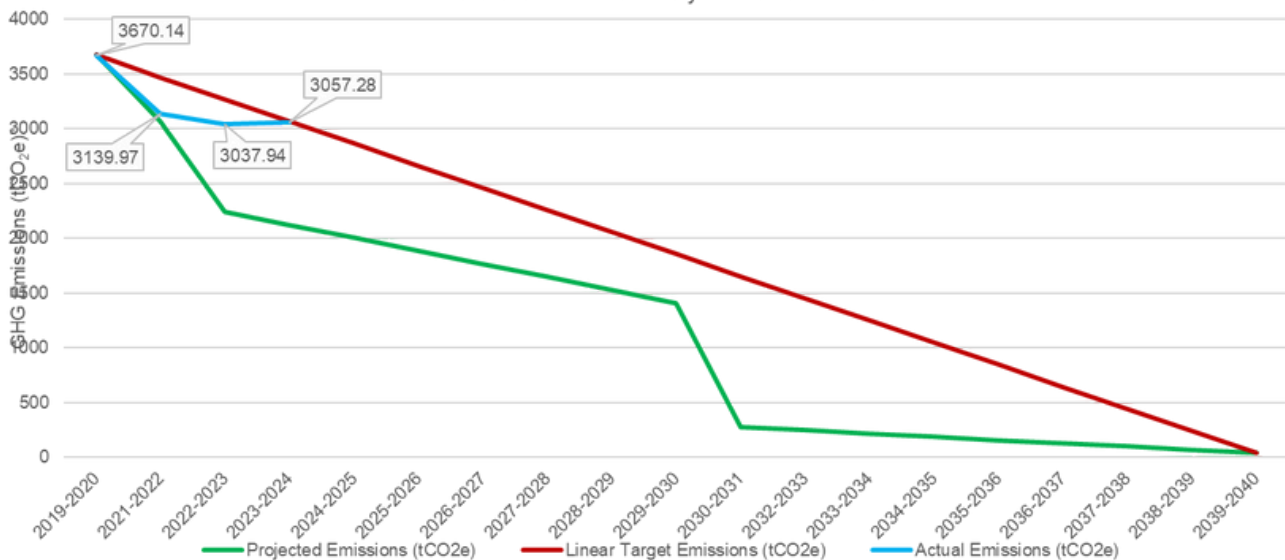
Our action plan will be revisited annually, if opportunities arise that improve the business case for action, we will reduce our carbon emissions earlier.

Carbon Pathway Scenarios to 2040



Source: [Climate Strategy](#)

HDC Carbon Pathway to 2040 Actual



Our emissions are higher than our projected goal but lower than our linear one. This is a result of recording more data but upcoming projects such as solar panel usage will help to reduce this further.

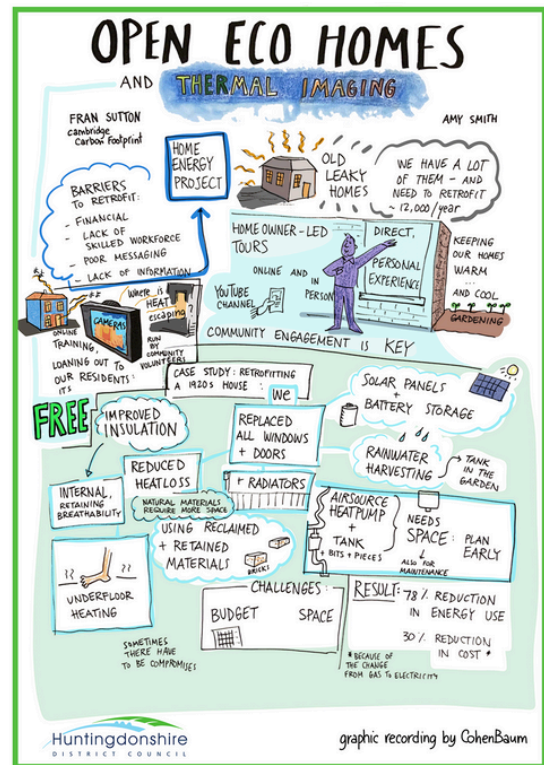


Keynote Speech 1: Cambridge Carbon Footprint

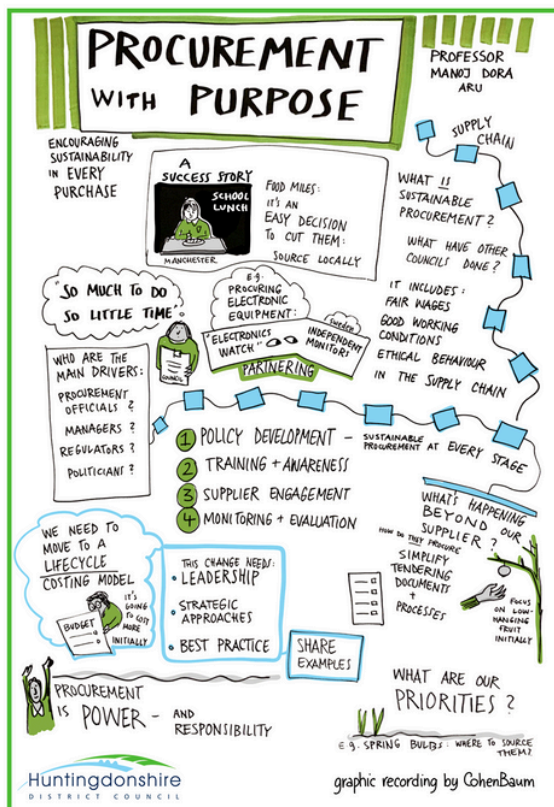
Open Eco Homes, led by Fran Sutton from Cambridge Carbon Footprint and interior designer Amy Smith

Key highlights from this speech:

- 60% of the changes needed to reach net zero by 2050 will require individual action and changes to the way we live our lives
- CCF offers a wider variety of homeowner led tours (see contact sheet at the bottom of this report)
- Following a refurbishment of her home, Amy concluded there was a 78% reduction in her energy usage
- CCF introduced the thermal imaging partnership between themselves and HDC



Keynote Speech 2: Anglia Ruskin University



Professor Manoj Dora led on 'Procurement with Purpose: Encouraging Sustainability in Every Purchase'

Key highlights from this speech:

- Sustainable procurement encompasses the environment, society and the economy in a continuous cycle
- Government procurement represents 12-30% of GDP
- We must take ownership of all costs when considering green criteria and supplier development
- We can overcome barriers by starting with strategic approaches e.g. pilot projects
- Councils have £100+ billion annual spending power according to the LGA Procurement Strategy 2023

Keynote Speech 3: South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

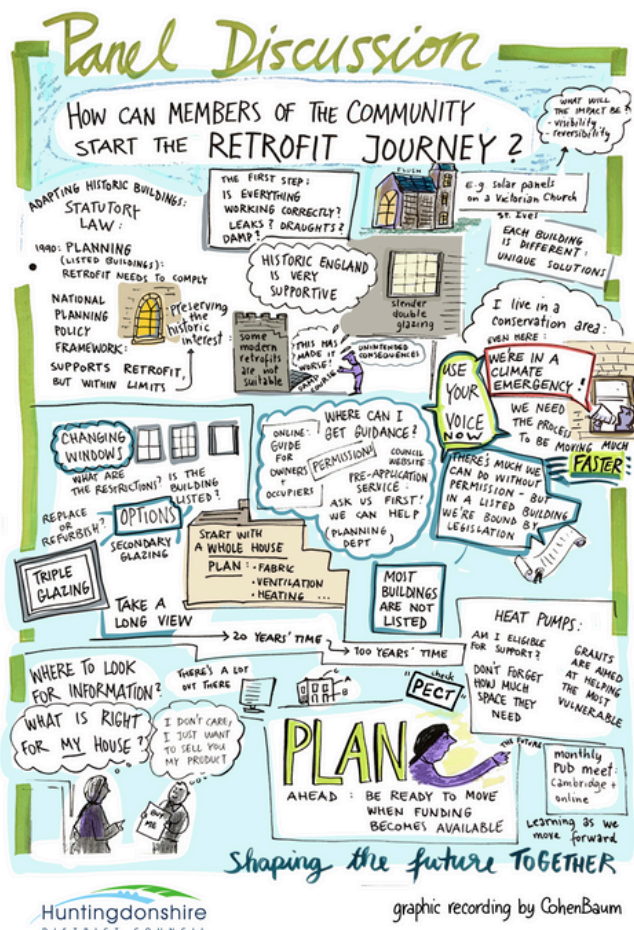
Sarah Baker, Group Manager - Climate Change and Environment at South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, gave a keynote on 'Delivering Retrofit at Scale.'

Key highlights from this speech:

- Retrofit scheme improved 575 homes in 18 months across LAD3* and HUG1**
- Total of £7.5 million spent to upgrade these homes, an average of £13,000 per home upgrade
- Dedicated case officer for every client
- Dedicated in-house team allowing them to educate themselves further by obtaining C&G Level 2 & 3 Fuel Debt/Energy Awareness and Introduction to Domestic Renewable Low Carbon Technologies courses



Panel: How can members of the community start the retrofit journey?



Panellists for this session were:

- Clara Kerr - Chief Planning Officer, Huntingdonshire District Council
- Nick Armour, Conservation Officer, Huntingdonshire District Council
- Amber Beardshall, Home Energy Reduction Officer, Huntingdonshire District Council
- Amy Smith - Home Retrofitter and Interior Designer
- Wookey - Head of the Association for Environment Conscious Building (AECB)
- James Rixon - Architect at Rixon Architects and also a member of the AECB

The AECB offers a monthly 'pub meet' to answer any retrofit questions if you're considering starting your own project. Site details are at the end of this report.

*Local Authority Delivery

**Home Upgrade Grant

Surgery Sessions

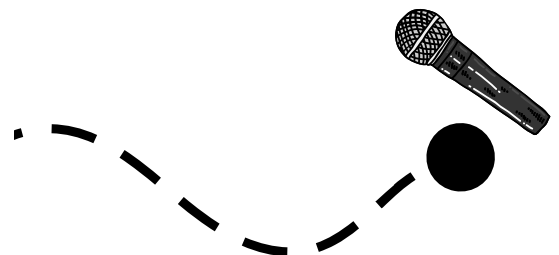
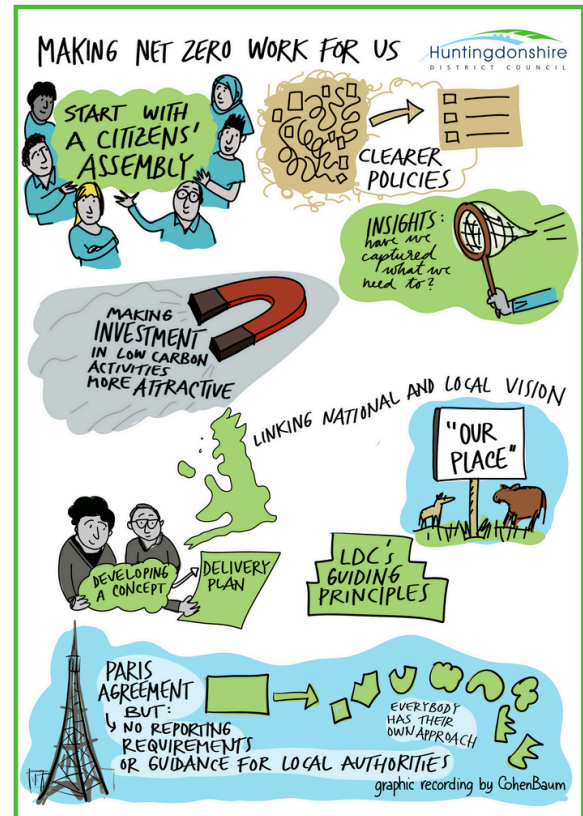
How, as a community, can we measure Biodiversity? Led by Nick Massey, Biodiversity Project Manager at HDC:



Engaging Children in Climate - led by Heidi Latronico-Ferris, Education Lead at PECT:



This surgery session focused on the importance of ownership and engagement. Policies need to be clearer and national and local visions need to be linked. The Paris agreement stipulated each country needed an NDC, a 'nationally determined contribution' to help achieve global carbon net zero goals and aim to prevent global temperatures exceeding 1.5 degrees. Each country was to report back every 5 years. There are currently no reporting requirements or guidance for local authorities. A 'local determined contribution' therefore will be the guiding principle for this once it has been completed. This project is a partnership between the Cambridgeshire County Council and District Councils and will culminate in June 2025.



Interactive Feedback Session

In closing we asked our audience to feed back on 3 key questions:

WHAT CLIMATE ACTION ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE AWAY FROM TODAY?

- FOLLOW UP WITH NEW CONTACTS
- GROW MY OWN FOOD
- THERMAL IMAGING
- BETTER PROCUREMENT
- MORE RECYCLING
- DOWNLOAD iNaturalist & START RECORDING BIODIVERSITY
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- MORE STEM ACTIVITIES WITH SCHOOLS
- TAKING IDEAS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS
- MOVE TO AIR SOURCE PUMP

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL graphic recording by CohenBaum

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE?

- LEARNING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE
- ATTEND COURSES
- TALK TO PEOPLE!
- ASK IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY
- FIND PEOPLE WHO KNOW:
- E-LEARNING FROM CREDIBLE SOURCES
- CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT
- GO TO PUBLIC EVENTS
- JOIN A CLIMATE CAFE
- PECT CLIMATE HUB

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL graphic recording by CohenBaum

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE COUNCIL DOING MORE OF?

- CELEBRATING INITIATIVES
- PEOPLE ENGAGING THROUGH ARTWORKS
- COLLABORATION ACROSS THE BOARD!
- LIAISING WITH THE PRESS
- MORE AFFORDABLE SOLAR PANELS
- MAKE CLIMATE-FRIENDLY BUILDING A CONDITION FOR ALL NEW BUILDS
- LONG-TERM ANTI-FLOODING MEASURES
- SOLAR PANELS COMPULSORY ON BUSINESS SITES
- INTEGRATED TRANSPORT OPTIONS
- YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCE
- MORE BIODIVERSITY SCHEMES
- PROJECTS TO REUSE FURNITURE AND WHITE GOODS
- SUPPORT E.g. TO GET SOLAR PANELS
- FACILITATE DISCUSSION, SHARE GOOD PRACTICE
- CLEARER MESSAGING
- CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL graphic recording by CohenBaum

Contacts, Key Information and Links

Cambridge Carbon Footprint useful links:

[Retrofitting Historic Homes](#)

[Is a Heat Pump Right for You?](#)

[Open Eco Homes Case Studies](#)

[Directory of Trades](#)

Further useful information can be found in these links:

[Action on Energy Cambridgeshire](#)

[Visit a heat pump](#)

[Association for Environment Conscious Building, Cambridgeshire](#)

[Cambridge Retrofit Hub](#)

The video shown in Sarah's keynote can be found [here](#)

Are you interested in borrowing a thermal imaging camera? Do you have any suggestions of what HDC can do to combat Climate Change further? Would you like us to come and talk at an event or Parish meeting? Please email:

climate.conversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Want to know more about Climate in the Huntingdonshire area? Visit:

[Online Climate Hub](#)

PECT's website for further information is [here](#)

HDC's work on the 'Biodiversity For All' project can be found [here](#)

Further information on locally determined contributions are found [here](#)

To find out more about Huntingdonshire Futures, click [here](#)

Our incredible visual illustrations were provided by Beatrice Baumgartner-Cohen. Her website is [here](#)

