



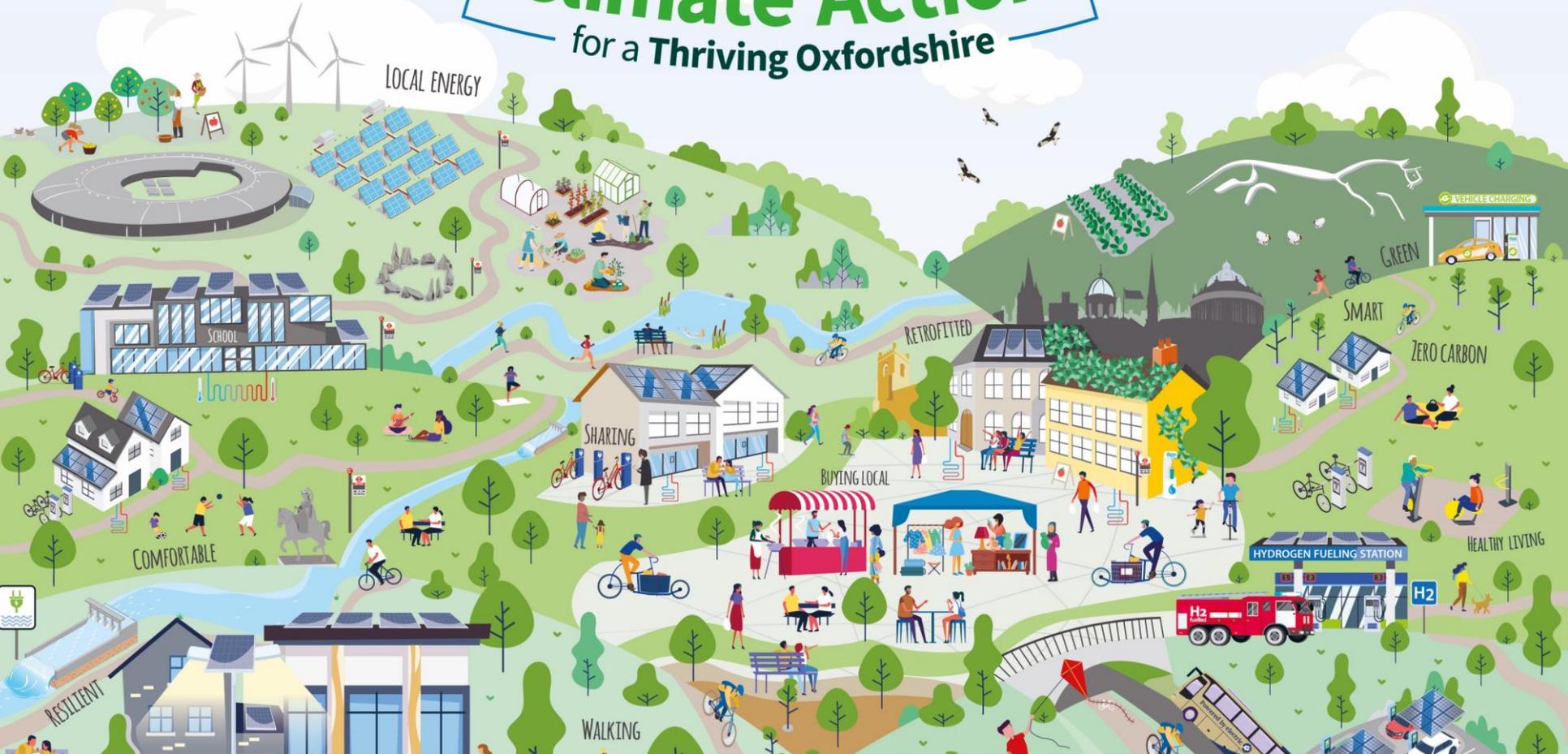
# Oxfordshire Response to Climate Emergency

**Susan Halliwell**

Director for Planning and Place

# Climate Action

for a Thriving Oxfordshire



LOCAL ENERGY

SCHOOL

SHARING

BUYING LOCAL

RETROFITTED

GREEN

SMART

ZERO CARBON

COMFORTABLE

RESILIENT

WALKING

HEALTHY LIVING

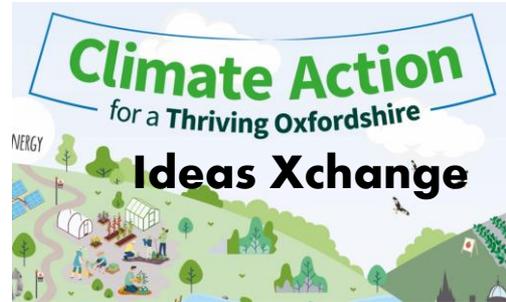
HYDROGEN FUELING STATION

H2

VEHICLE CHARGING



# Sphere of control





Areas we directly control



Areas we influence - supply chain



Areas we can support and guide - Schools



Areas we can influence through policy



Areas where we can collaborate



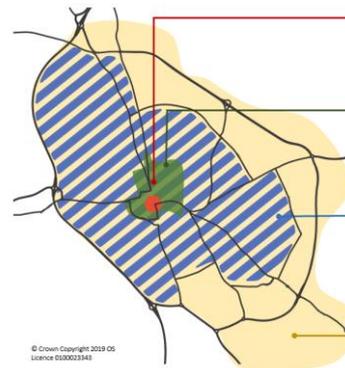
# Community carbon initiatives



Affordable Warmth Network



Local Energy Oxfordshire





# ADEPT CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

- The regional workshops for our members are one strand of ADEPT's climate change work programme.
- Other strands include working with local government and NGO partners, and with Corporate Partners.
- 7 regional workshops January–May 2020 (4 down, 3 to go).
- Input from LGA, Ashden, council case studies, and Greening Campaign community group.



# COMMON THEMES

- How to turn a Climate Emergency Declaration into action?  
Enthusiasm to learn and share.
- Funding squeeze for Place Services – councils' capacity for sustainability/climate action has reduced.
- Complex marketplace of advice and support for councils.
- Government departments are keen to know what we are doing.

**ADEPT**

Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport





# CHALLENGES

- Scale and pace – moving beyond more case studies to find the things that really have a big impact, and quickly.
- Engaging communities in shaping and delivering local action.
- Identifying the barriers to effective mitigation & adaptation.
- Governance (local) – complexity of tiers, politics within and between organisations.
- Governance (national) – departmentalism, political leadership.

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# SOME EMERGING POLICY ASKS

- **Funding** – devolved, streamlined funding for places, and national infrastructure investment to prioritise clean growth and adaptation.
- **Planning and buildings** – all new homes and buildings to be net zero, and a national plan for retrofitting existing properties
- **Transport** – accelerated switch to ULEVs coupled with investment in public transport and active travel to reduce mileage
- **Skills** – a national plan for skills, training people for a low carbon economy, focussed on high carbon places and sectors.



# SOME EMERGING POLICY ASKS

- **Natural capital and green infrastructure** – reverse the decline in green infrastructure and biodiversity, invest in natural capital solutions, use these to improve health and wellbeing.

# Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy

Paula Hewitt

Lead Director for Economic  
and Community Infrastructure  
Somerset County Council



11,000 hectares of agricultural land flooded  
Over 200 homes under water, some for months





## Background

During 2019, all five Somerset Local Authorities declared or recognised a 'Climate Emergency'.

**The five authorities have committed to develop a Strategy that will identify ways to make the county of Somerset carbon neutral by 2030.**

## Goals of the Strategy

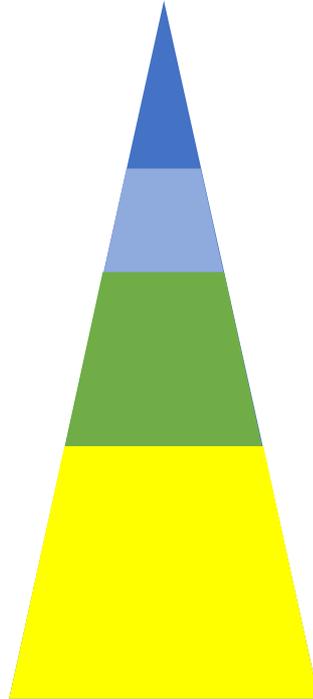
- To decarbonise Local Authority estates and reduce our carbon footprint
- To encourage and support the decarbonisation of the wider Public Sector Estates and reduce its carbon footprint
- To work towards making Somerset carbon neutral by 2030
- To have a Somerset which is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Local Authority  
ability to influence

HIGH



Low



**GOAL 1  
(SHORT-TERM)**

a) To decarbonise Local Authority estates and reduce our carbon footprint

b) To encourage and support the decarbonisation of the wider Public Sector Estates and reduce its carbon footprint.

**GOAL 2  
(SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM)**

To work towards making Somerset carbon neutral by 2030.

**GOAL 3**

To have a Somerset which is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Impact Over  
Time





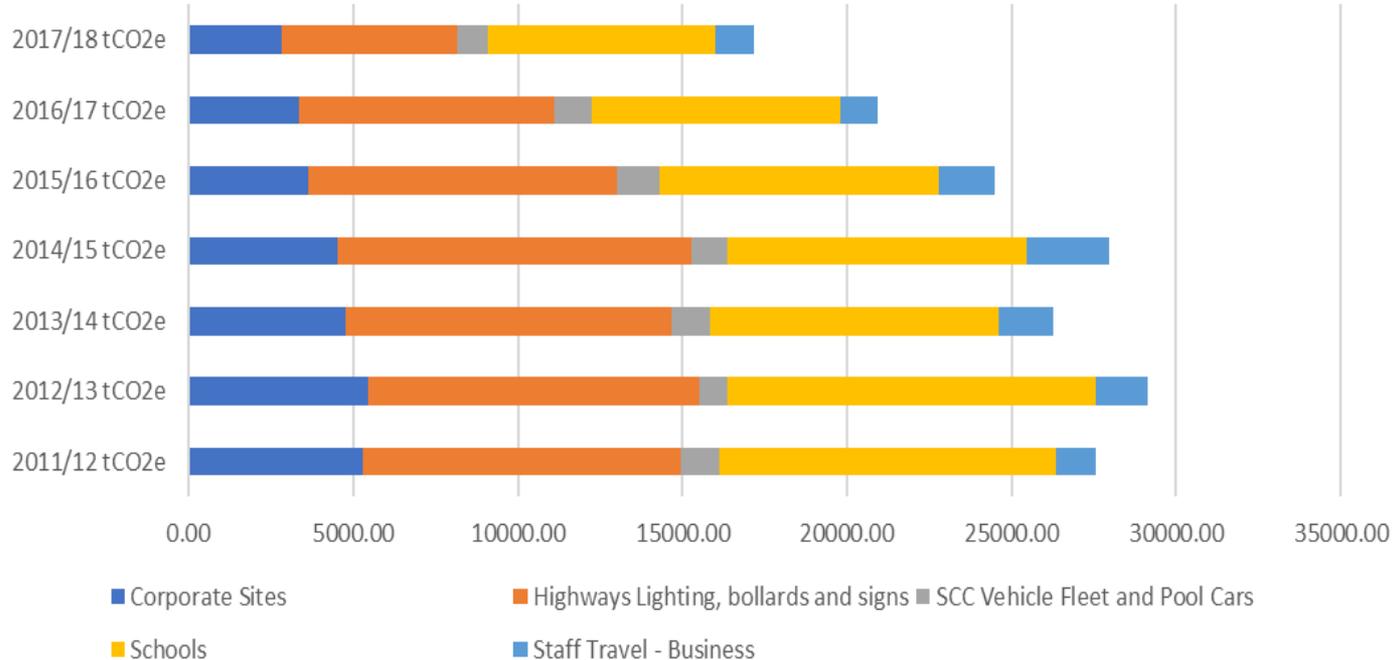
## Focus of strategy

- Mitigation – e.g. increasing energy efficiency, phasing out fossil fuels by switching to low-carbon energy sources. Exploring ways to reduce carbon associated with consumption in the county
- Adaptation – taking practical actions to manage risks from climate impacts, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy
- Sequestration - the long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean
- Behaviour change and consumption reduction
- Offset as last resort

# Somerset County Council emissions



Emissions performance over time



# Workstreams

- Built Environment
- Energy
- Engagement and Communication
- Farming and Food
- Industry, Business and Supply Chain
- Transport
- Natural Environment
- Waste and Resources
- Water

## Workstreams focus

- Researching and prioritising key issues
- Developing mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Collaborating wider as appropriate
- Identifying outcomes & actions to deliver the stated Goals of the Strategy
- Evaluating costs, benefits and unintended secondary consequences





# Framework Strategy consultation

January – February 2020

- 4,094 adult respondents to the public survey
- 625 respondents to the young people's survey
- Public consultation events
- Business Summit
- Local Nature Partnership reconstituted

# Somerset Community Climate Emergency Fund

SCC have announced that £1million will be available for parish, town and city councils to bid for green initiatives in their own areas following last year's Climate Emergency Declaration



# Next Steps

- March Draft strategy being developed
- April - May Draft strategy consultation
- April – May Final inputs and data from workstreams to action plans
- June Finalise Strategy and Action Plans
- July Adoption of Final Strategy and action plans by the five Somerset Local Authorities.

## More Information:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency)



**Coffee break**

**ADEPT**

# Roundtable discussions

# Roundtable discussions

- What are the most effective actions we are taking on our own direct emissions?
- What are the most effective actions we're taking with our council's work?
- What are the biggest barriers to supporting zero carbon and resilient local authority regions?
- How do we ensure/support all councils to make progress on climate change and play a role in delivering net zero? (BEIS)

# Roundtable discussion (cont.)

- What are our top 3 policy ‘asks’ of government on adaptation and mitigation?
- Bringing corporate partners and councils together for faster action – what are the future opportunities for working together in places and across sectors? Any common actions ahead of COP26? (Discussion and actions?)
- Bringing partners, councils and government together for faster action – what can we achieve going forward, and what do we need to avoid? (Defra)

**ADEPT Corporate Partner  
Climate Change Seminar  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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