

## Letter to Canterbury City Council

Dear Councillor Watkins,

We are writing to all councils in the region to introduce the South East Climate Alliance (SECA), to send our latest blog on climate friendly Covid recovery plans and to ask for your help with updating the information we have on your council.

SECA is a growing alliance of around 80 community and environmental groups throughout the South East, uniting for action on climate change. Last year we were very active in campaigning for local councils to declare a Climate Emergency. It is encouraging that such a high proportion of councils in the South East have done so. Congratulations on Canterbury committing to set up a Climate Change Working Group ( <https://seclimatealliance.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Progress-summary-010320.pdf> )

Now we are following the progress of councils with their climate action plans, supporting this work where we can and sharing information on good practice.

### **Our latest blog: Building back better from the Covid-19 crisis:**

We know that councils and their officers have been extremely busy on the front line, organising support for the most vulnerable in the current COVID-19 crisis. However, we are keen that the climate-protecting opportunities presented by the crisis shouldn't be lost as the lockdown eases. As UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, *"With this restart, a window of hope and opportunity opens... an opportunity for nations to green their recovery packages and shape the 21st century economy in ways that are clean, green, healthy, safe and more resilient."*

So we are sending this SECA blog to all the SE councils - <https://seclimatealliance.uk/building-back-better/> It suggests ideas on how councils might make some rapid progress on their climate goals through their Covid recovery strategies. Examples are prioritising pop-up cycle lanes and roll out of EV charging points and encouraging local food production, home working and new green jobs. If you have other plans/ ideas that we could share along these lines we'd love to hear about them.

### **Contribute to our council climate action survey:**

You might like to take a look at our website <https://seclimatealliance.uk> , and in particular our survey of climate action by councils: <http://bit.ly/SECAclimateactionsurvey>

We have been putting this together from various sources, with the aim of creating a comparative document which is useful for both campaigners and councils. The concept has been welcomed so far, but it is work in progress and you will see that some sections are incomplete. We don't have much information on Canterbury City Council at the moment. We would like the information to be as accurate as possible- could you arrange for the appropriate officer to help us with the section on Canterbury? Any information, updates or corrections can be sent to [southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com](mailto:southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com). Thank you.

**Contacts in your council:**

It would be helpful for SECA to have a record of the main contacts for climate action in your council, both members and officers. Please let us know at [southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com](mailto:southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com)

SECA would like to be seen as a partner and supporter to councils and build positive relations for the future.

Thank you for your time; we look forward to hearing from you,

Jay Mercer

SECA Steering Group Member