

West Sussex County Council Climate Strategy Consultation
Detailed responses from local members of the South East Climate
Alliance (SECA)

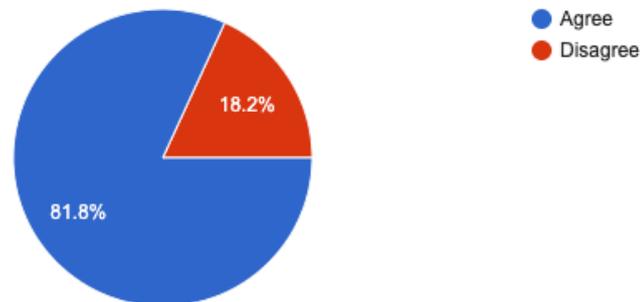
22 SECA members from West Sussex commented on the strategy:

Organisation	Respondent
Amberley Climate Network	Sue Belgrave
Arun & Adur Greenpeace	Rod Thick
CAGNE - Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emissions	Sally Pavey
CPRE Sussex	Kia Trainor
Eco Chi	Maureen Atwell
Extinction Rebellion Arun Valley	Joan Grech
Extinction Rebellion Chichester	Lucia Withers and Tom Broughton
Extinction Rebellion Worthing	Jo Paul & Amberlouise Everitt
Fairer World Lindfield	Peter Desmond and Chris Lee
Greening Westbourne	Richard Hitchcock
Greener Graffham	Ginny Barrett
Greening Steyning	Geoff Barnard/Paul Hannam
HKD Transition	Juliet Merrifield
Horsham Churches Together and Horsham Eco Churches	Rosemary Couchman, Development Co-ordinator
Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, KKWG and Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group	Jill Sutcliffe
No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group	Karen Park
Scaynes Hill Sustainability Group	Cilla de Lande Long
Sustainable Henfield 2030. (SH2030)	Gill Perry, Tony Baker and Vas Santonas
Transition Town Worthing - transport Group	Rod Thick
Worthing Climate Action Network	Michelle Furtado
+ 2 other groups who did not get to fill in their names because of a glitch with the form	

Question 4

Considering the whole document, do you agree or disagree that the strategy is clear and easy to understand?

22 responses



If you disagree, what could be done to ensure the strategy is clear and easy to understand?

- It needs to convey more of a sense of urgency. Suggest that the implications should be put in a box and highlighted ie the Met Office projections - Summer temperatures-SLR and stress these ie Inland: highly water stressed area (EA/NRW 2013 report); and on the coast SLR. Look at SDNP Climate Change Adaption Plan - [sdnpa-climate-change-adaptation-plan/](#) The map is behind the curve - the strategy is for the next 10 years and the coastal plain is highly threatened when ave temp increase gets beyond 1.5oC
- Most of it is clear, though I cannot work out what Opportunity 3 is trying to say.
- We welcome the Strategy and thought it was mostly clear and easy to understand with some good strong wording we haven't seen from WSCC before. However we think it is not ambitious enough.
- It is unclear who the audience for this strategy is and therefore who it needs to be clear to i.e. who is the audience? Overall, we found the strategy is vague and does not communicate the sense of urgency of the issue – it should refer to the “climate emergency” rather than “climate change” and should emphasise the importance of immediate/urgent action to reduce carbon emissions and the benefits of this over longer-term actions. It is unclear what “leadership” role the council envisages for itself. The strategy implies a sequential process whereby others would follow once WSCC 'gets their own house in order,' but it is unclear how, why and when this would occur – the ambition needs to be coherent and move concurrently. We believe the council has a key role in leading county-wide actions to address the climate and ecological emergency and that a firmer commitment to leadership by the council. This should include learning from and building on expertise from elsewhere (other local authorities, experts etc) and engaging with, listening to and supporting local residents, communities, trade unions, businesses, industry, services and others to develop a coherent, shared vision, strategy and plan. The leadership role and

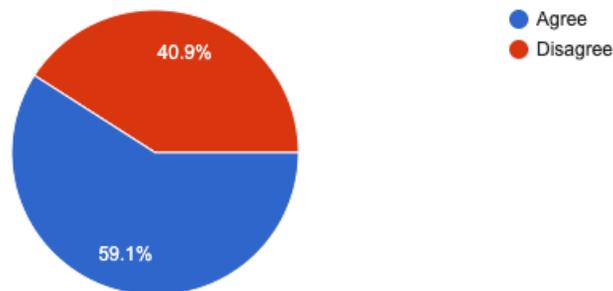
engagement strategy needs to be clearly set out/articulated. It is unclear why the strategy only or primarily addresses the council's own operations, and does not even appear to address areas where the council is the strategic lead or where it has specific responsibilities, including transport/roads and education. For example, based on our understanding of the strategy, references to sustainable transport relate only to council services and operations and not to supporting public/active transport, rethinking the necessity of roadbuilding etc. Similarly, despite the council's strategic lead on education there is no reference is made to role of children/young people i.e. those who on whom the climate emergency is going to have the greatest effect.

- On the positive side...we like the Met Office graphic. However, why isn't the strategy linked to the climate emergency motion? Wouldn't this be the starting point for the strategy. Otherwise how do we know that what was agreed by Full Council is being implemented? Why are the terms of reference of the Climate Change Advisory Group and their role in supporting the implementation not referred to in the strategy. This strategy only relates to the Council not to the county of West Sussex - why is there no reference to the role of citizens in Net Zero by 2050?
- Needs to spell much more clearly how this will be followed rapidly by a concrete action plan.
- Although we recognise this is a 'high-level' strategy, it still reads as more of a 'policy' than a 'strategy', setting out broad objectives ('commitments') rather than the means to achieve them. The major weakness is that the council underplays and misunderstands its leadership role, given its democratic responsibilities. It has yet to look outward, so its approach to influencing is weak. Having said this, we do recognise that producing this document and making commitments towards carbon neutrality is a significant step forwards for the council and we welcome this as a starting point.

Question 5

The strategy is prepared for County Council officers and members, to lead, enable and inspire in their roles. Do you agree or disagree that the reasons and benefits for 'Lead, Enable and Inspire' are clearly stated?

22 responses



If you disagree, how could this be strengthened?

- Can you put those words - lead, enable and inspire - in either the intro letter or at the end of the introduction section - We want to lead, enable and inspire!
- Sorry I don't disagree with the words but suggest that the Council invites some experts to outline the issues and illustrate the importance of their role both as "translators" of national policy and with reference to their own area. Eg Prof Kevin Anderson from Manchester University; someone from the Met Office; someone from Exeter University on Sea Level Rise
- There is a tension between the admission that "We know there are others better placed to lead on some of the environmental issues facing our communities" and the first opportunity identified, to "take the lead". WSCC can indeed "get its own house in order" and "lead by example", but there is no mechanism identified to ensure WSCC leadership is supported by expertise. There are countless grassroots and community organizations committed to these issues – where is the structure or institution whereby this can be harnessed? The strategy is silent on community engagement, and a public education campaign, which is indeed an opportunity WSCC is best posed to seize. It is essential that the community be brought on board – too much language of 'leadership' has the potential to be antithetical to this end. WSCC also has the opportunity to facilitate between local authorities, ensuring that their climate strategies are complimentary and overcoming jurisdictional limits; this is missed in the language of 'leadership'. WSCC might reconceive of its role as exemplar, facilitator and amplifier rather than leader.
- We welcome that WSCC wants to step up to the challenge but too much emphasis on the language of 'leadership' can be off-putting to the general public who need to be engaged. Better to think of it as facilitating, coordinating, amplifying etc.

- The relevant section, headed 'Our opportunities' talks about taking the opportunities to lead, enable and inspire. If this is the objective of the strategy then this section should have a more obvious heading e.g. 'How we will deliver our Vision' and use wording that is more positive and clear especially in terms of leading by example / demonstrating what is possible. Talking about 'opportunities' and using the word 'can' makes the whole section sound optional rather than the core rationale of a strategy.
- The benefits outlined on page 6 speak to why the County Council should urgently respond to the climate emergency. However, the strategy does not speak to how it will achieve these benefits which can only be achieved by an area-wide approach and not by a strategy that focuses primarily on the council's own operations. It is not clear how the council intends to "lead, enable and inspire" in support of achieving these benefits and, indeed, is unlikely to do so based on such an inward looking and narrowly focused strategy which fails to address the full extent of council responsibilities and influence, including for example, for education and transport.
- On page 8 "Our Opportunities" Section 2 add reference to collaborative working together with district, borough and parish councils, churches and community groups.
- Is there a separate section on this? Perhaps there could be clearer calls to action? For example: We will form a Zero Waste department with clearly identifiable officers drawn from County, District and Borough Councils with adequate authority to:
 - a) Engage with both businesses and the general public to drive forward and set the pace for significant reductions in waste arisings, efficient resource flows and minimum wastage of primary resources like water and energy
 - b) Facilitate engagement with community groups, individual volunteers and entrepreneurs, 'Zero Waste Ambassadors' to help in education, research and circular economy projects
 - c) Work proactively to bolster reuse and recycle, with reuse and repair centres readily accessible on foot and by public transport and charity shops seen as desirable indicators of a healthy shopping centre
 - d) Separately collect household, commercial and public food waste which cannot be saved through food banks and community fridges, for anaerobic digestion
 - e) Proactively engage with planning officers, architects, developers and builders to ensure that as much as possible of new building structures are capable of dismantling and removal intact for reuse rather than demolition and reuse of the fragmentary residues.
- The strategy does seem short on the reasons to feel inspired/be inspiring (as opposed to simply fearful of negative impacts), with little emphasis on positive

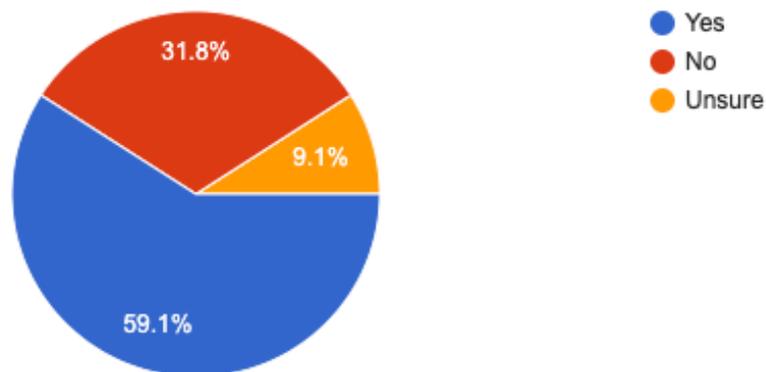
examples of how a 2030 low carbon West Sussex would/will, rather than may, be a better place to live and work

- Details on how the enable and inspire roles will play out are very sketchy. Some examples would help show you are serious on these. How do you hope to work with groups like Greening Steyning, for example?
- It is helpful that the introduction explains the urgency of the climate emergency and that some benefits are listed (although there is no mention of natural capital or resilience) It is excellent that the council recognises the 'the really significant opportunities lie in what we can enable, and we have a unique ability to do this across the County.

Question 6

Is the Vision clear?

22 responses



If you answered no, or unsure, please provide comments.

There do not appear to be many practical solutions.

- Suggest it opens "By....." and last line our county to "oppose, mitigate and adapt to climate change". Otherwise it sounds like CANUTE
- It does not include aviation thus ignoring the big impact aviation, Gatwick, has on the counties emissions as a whole
- It is not always clear in the Strategy which things are internal (WSCC as an organisation) and which are about West Sussex the county. The strategy seems to address the former more clearly than the latter but it's the wider things that matter most (as above). WSCC may not have jurisdiction over them but has a great role to play in encouraging, coordinating, amplifying.
- It is not clear why '...using our limited resources wisely' is part of the Vision. If this is intended to refer to more careful use of the planets resources then it should be clearer as it reads as if it specifically refers to the spending of council funds. Why is only the Council's enabling role, and not also leading and inspiring, included in the Vision? Terms such as 'carbon neutral' and 'climate resilient' need better explanation (e.g. perhaps in the body of the text rather than in a glossary) , especially the application of these ideas for West Sussex to make the 'Introduction' more meaningful. The point about the excellent 2030 target within the context of the much later UK Government 2050 target is unexplained.
- The first half of the vision relating to WSCC's own operations is adequate as far as it goes, but a vision that is confined only on council operations is wholly inadequate. We believe the vision should be of a carbon neutral and resilient West Sussex The vision (and strategy) should also speak to fairness and social justice in order to explicitly recognise how social and economic

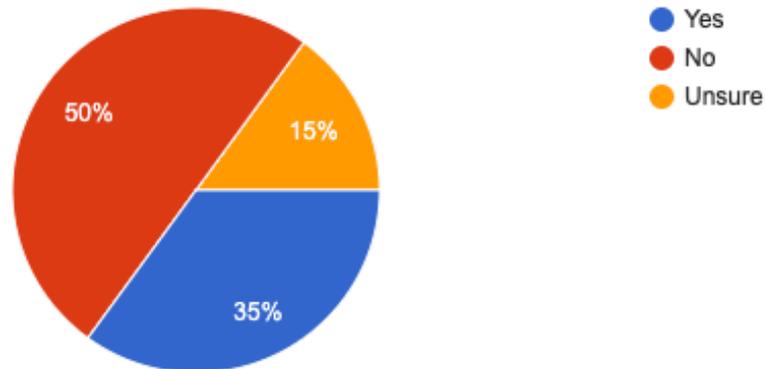
disadvantage, including poverty, are likely to be compounded by the climate crisis and, conversely, will increase vulnerability to it.

- The vision should be expanded to include that the clear statement of our commitments should be integral to exercising across the Community we serve
- No mention of West Sussex as a county.
- As above, the description of the 'Vision' would benefit from a more positive energy, encouraging Members and officers to feel this is a future environment that they want to be part of.
- This is the weakest bit of the whole strategy. Seems very wishy washy.
- Clear but disappointing that it looks inwards, to a resilient county council organisation rather than a resilient West Sussex with its myriad communities, and settlements.

Question 7

Do you agree or disagree, that the commitments match the vision?

20 responses



If no, or unsure, what is missing or should be changed?

- Because there do not appear to be many practical solutions.
- Divestment of council funds and pensions in fossil fuels
- There are some minor tweaks required Reduction of C + CH4 emissions: biii. And what about WSCC Highways Dept? Changing Climate: c. insert drought - this area is identified as the most water stressed area of England + Wales (NE/NRW, 2013 report); E. Net Biodiversity Gain is mandated in the Environment 25 Year plan; use resources sustainably - need to beware offsetting the impacts elsewhere; Green Economy -green tourism isn't a panacea and can have its own high environmental impacts
- It can not reduce carbon if it continues to ignore aviation
- The high-level commitments are good as far as they go, and embedding them across all areas of council services and operations is a necessary step. What's missing we feel are any high-level commitments specific to the areas for which the county council has direct responsibilities and that would make possible, facilitate or enhance the potential for residents and businesses to reduce carbon emissions (and incidentally contribute to the goal of a greener economy). In particular, three areas of responsibility seem crucial to not just a carbon neutral county council but more significantly a carbon neutral county: - education (school buildings of course, transport to and from schools, and building the skills for the green workforce of the future) - highways and transport planning (refocusing infrastructure work away from cars and car ownership and towards walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport) - waste (West Sussex is still below targets for recycling rates) Now obviously there are separate strategies and policies that relate to these areas, we understand that this is a high level document and don't expect to see lots of

detail. But omitting the opportunities and challenges in these areas of council responsibilities makes the overall strategy weaker. There is a mention of road transport, but it appears to relate to the council's own transport, not to the infrastructure that would enable less reliance on vehicles and more safe opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport. We'd also like a clear strategic commitment to carbon neutral procurement. There is a commitment to 'source and use resources sustainably' but it seems a bit woolly in comparison with the overall commitment to become a 'net carbon zero organisation'. Finally, in the adaptation and resilience section, we are glad to see the council's prioritisation of natural flood solutions, and think WSCC should acknowledge its role as local lead flood authority, which gives it potential influence with other councils as well as with the wider community.

- Though there are commitments to, for example, support a green economy, the strategy seems overly focused on reduction (“to reduce our impact on the environment”) and elimination, rather than enabling the transformation that needs to take place to truly address the demands of the crisis; for instance, in ‘County Council Commitments’ under ‘reducing carbon emissions’ (b) the commitments to ‘reduce the carbon associated with road-based transport’ does not mention positive, constructive initiatives such as car shares, cycling programmes, expansion/accessibility of public transit, and so on. The same could be said of a variety of the other commitments (net zero carbon – planting or rewilding which will decrease overall carbon, etc) Furthermore, the emphasis on reduction in regard to specific practices throughout the strategy results in a silence over issues of development and planning; how will this strategy shape the evaluation of planning proposals, expansion of roads and parking, etc?
- It is welcome that WSCC intends to get ‘its own house in order’ but there are some crucial missing examples of how it will do this, especially issues of development and planning and also divestment from fossil fuels. Sustainable business - more emphasis on ensuring external events are carbon zero, plastic free and consistent with the aims of the strategy. The vision must be founded in social justice so that policies reduce inequalities rather than making them worse.
- Being carbon neutral requires the total elimination of carbon emissions or the balancing of carbon emissions with carbon removal but the commitments refer to reductions, not elimination, of carbon emissions and do not include any carbon removal strategies. Carbon sequestration is referred to in the following section as a climate change adaptation strategy. Carbon sequestration can have a role in adaptation to climate change but this is a more complex idea relating to creating more resilient and productive soils, especially for food production and seems out of the scope of this Strategy. The reference to nature and biodiversity in the ‘adapt and be resilient’ section of the commitments highlight a glaring omission in the Strategy i.e. that it does not recognise the equal and linked crisis of ecological destruction. A Biodiversity Emergency was announced by IPBES in May 2019. Arguably, dealing with the

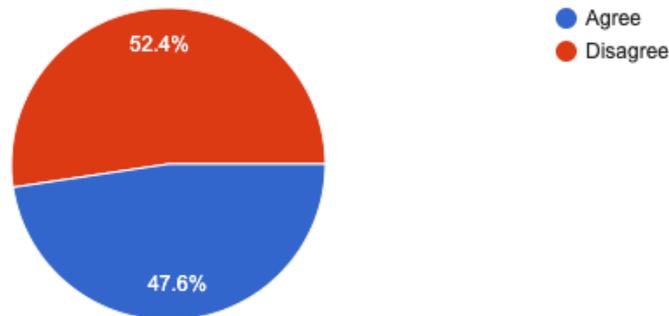
myriad factors that contribute to ecological destruction in West Sussex are more within the material remit and capability of WSCC than climate change which knows no borders and is complex. That relatively vague references to the natural environment are made in this Strategy suggests a worrying relegation of this crisis to a footnote.

- Commitments in relation to WSCC's own operations are generally fine although, there is confusion between overarching goals (reducing carbon emissions and adaptation and resilience) with more micro-actions (sourcing sustainably, growing an economy and transforming how we work - all of which are part of measures needed to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt). We believe it is essential for there to be specific commitments on a) engagement and b) communication/reporting: Engagement should include working with council suppliers, services, local businesses, communities and others with whom consultation and engagement will be critical to the success of the strategy. A specific commitment to a citizen's assembly should be included as a means of generating ideas, recommendations and support for the strategy/plans from the community. There also needs to be commitment to transparent, open and accessible communications. This would involve, inter alia, developing a communications strategy to ensure that everyone affected (which is everyone in West Sussex) is informed of strategies and plans, can contribute to and feedback on them, and is kept up to date on implementation in ongoing manner (reporting should not be confined to an annual summary and the reference on page 11 to identifying the most appropriate ways to share progress with our communities is not sufficient).
- A proper inclusive process to educate is required
- Although the broad direction of travel is welcomed and appreciated, we await seeing a detailed action plan with targets and the opportunity to send further comments.
- Lot of them are vague. We need a roadmap towards achieving the vision
- They go some way to contributing towards the vision but without a detailed action plan it is not possible to comment.
- Under 'reducing carbon emissions' it would seem logical to lead that section with 'We will prioritise sustainable transport options' as the overall objective. 'Reducing the carbon associated with road-based transport' is a subset of that objective
- These are good - provided they are followed up with swift action plans to follow them through. Without that they seem vague and abstract.
- We think the vision could be more ambitious and therefore the commitments should also be more ambitious.

Question 8

Do you agree or disagree that it is clear how the commitments deliver on the vision?

21 responses



If you disagree, how could this be strengthened?

- Clearly much more action required - see what MPP, Manhood Peninsula Partnership, has done in the last 20 years - influenced policy; held workshops; active involvement with the coastal realignment project at Medmerry; Need to have policies which are implemented; Liaison with other areas facing similar threats
- Opportunity 3 needs to be much clearer – bringing the public on board is crucial to the success of the strategy. A public education/engagement campaign is an opportunity WSCC is best posed to seize. There are countless grassroots and community organizations committed to these issues – where is the structure or institution whereby this can be harnessed? The strategy doesn't mention the local Citizens Assemblies on climate crisis that many local authorities have committed to. The strategy should surely include these as a key mechanism to engage with the public and community groups through informed, deliberative democracy with accountability.
- A clearly stated commitment to remove WSCC financial assets and pensions from Fossil Fuel investment funds should be made.
- The commitments relating to adaptation and resilience are weak, vague and include actions unconnected with the stated Vision e.g. 'We will be an adapted and resilient organisation' as an example of how WSCC will adapt and be resilient to a changing climate is an empty commitment. The point about carbon sequestration has already been made. It is also not clear how 'access to nature' addresses the impacts of climate change. The point about the vision being silent on the ecological crisis has been made so it is not clear what role 'increasing opportunities to achieve biodiversity net gain' helps deliver on the vision.
- It's difficult to answer this question without seeing the delivery plan

- Residents of Sussex need to be enabled in order to reduce their impact of climate change. Enabling needs to be made clearer and aspects need to be more visible
- County Council Commitments The 5 key commitments mostly concentrate on the 'first opportunity' taking the lead and the way WSCC supply the service, there is much less about enabling communities, suppliers and partnerships to live and work in different ways. eg waste reduction, recycling, sustainable purchases and shop locally.
 - Commitment 1. We will mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions – page 9 Strengthen point c: We will increase the amount of renewable energy used and generated in West Sussex, such as solar and wind, and include in plans for new housing, business and community developments.
 - Commitment 2. We will adapt and be resilient to a changing climate – page 9 Add: f. We will consider the impact of climate change on new communities, housing and business parks, and recommend energy efficient construction methods are used to improve the built environment.
 - Commitment 3. We will source and use resources sustainably – page 9 Change: a. We will use resources sustainably, efficiently and economically such as food, water and pension fund investment. c. We will procure and source our resources responsibly including local sourcing where possible. Add: d. We will increase support for reuse and repair activities and education to minimise recyclables being put in residual waste.
 - Commitment 4. We will support and grow our local green economy – page 10 Add: c i We will enable sustainable circular economy business growth. c iii We will enable communities to make a contribution to a circular economy.
 - Commitment 5. We will transform how we work Add: We will increase focus on education for organisations, school children and the general public about the human causes of climate change and how people and organisations can reduce their environmental impact, including through better purchasing decisions and by being more mindful of what they do with products and materials that they no longer need. We will promote services such as re-use networks, repair centres, food banks and community fridges, the benefits of buying locally produced products with fewer transport miles and changes to behaviour such as using reusable cups/flasks and water refill stations to replace single-use plastics.

A diagram would illustrate the 2-part vision in 2030: 1. WSCC carbon neutral and climate resilient 2. Enable positive actions and behaviours to mitigate and adapt to climate change Using the 3 opportunities to see how the 5 commitments deliver each part to lead, enable and influence.

- Creation of a roadmap
- Add a baseline relating to carbon emissions against which the 2030 vision can be measured. Ni4H suggests the following to strengthen commitments to

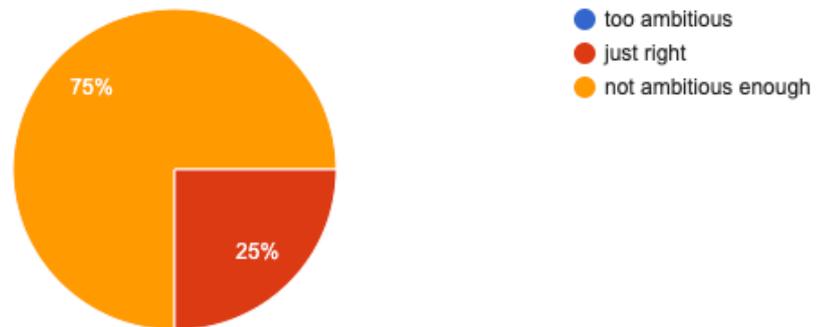
facilitate delivery against the plan, as there is a lot about leading, not so much about enabling and very little about influencing in the draft document.

- WE WILL MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS b. iv We will monitor localised air quality and key pollutants. c. We will increase the amount of renewable energy used and generated in West Sussex, however we will not increase thermal treatment options such as incineration and will not permit renewable energy which is co-generated with fossil fuels. The evidence base is growing that mass burn incinerators are significant emitters of CO₂ compared to bio-stabilised landfill, and the high carbon intensity (grammes per kWh) of electricity generated is already liable to inhibit the decarbonisation of the National Grid.
- WE WILL ADAPT AND BE RESILIENT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE f. We will enable the whole community to adapt and be resilient to a changing climate through such as communication, advertising, setting up food waste collections and localised recycling.
- WE WILL SOURCE AND USE RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY We believe this condition needs to include more actions from The Resource and Waste Strategy 2018, to minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. (see Appendix 1)
- WE WILL SUPPORT AND GROW OUR LOCAL GREEN ECONOMY e. We will support the transition away from a linear and towards a more circular economy During Covid-19 lockdown, when people cannot go on holiday and many face losing their job, it is not appropriate to have at the top of the list: “a. We will promote green tourism”. Green skills development and encouraging sustainable businesses should be at the top of the list.
- CHANGE HEADING TO: ‘WE WILL TRANSFORM HOW WE WORK AND LIVE’ e. We will challenge and support others to follow our example, such as overall energy consumption, sustainable transport and waste management, by awarding grants, arranging training and sharing of good practice. f. We will work in a broad range of partnerships to find innovative solutions and collaborative ways of working to tackle climate change. g. We will educate schools, community groups and the general public about climate change.
- Yes - provided they are followed up with swift action plans to follow them through

Question 9

In the commitments, are the aims?

20 responses



Further Comments on aims

- I cannot see any resistance to possible future intensive farm applications. Intensive farming is a significant contributor to climate change, loss of biodiversity, excessive use of land and water as well as the appalling conditions for animals.
- not specific enough
- Need baseline data and good systems of evaluation and monitoring
- It must include emissions from Gatwick on the ground and from the air
- See above
- The strategy seems overly focused on reduction (“to reduce our impact on the environment”) and elimination, rather than positive, transformational things that need to take place across the county to truly address the demands of the crisis. Eg Transport, food security/regenerative agriculture, rewilding and energy security all need to be really ambitious and transformative.
- Positive that influence of WSCC will be used beyond what they control (its own estate).
- There is an opportunity now for a more integrated "Green New deal "type approach
- More needs to be done to encourage the green economy within the scope of what is achievable by the council. This is not just ‘green tourism’ and ‘greening up’ existing businesses but the encouragement of ‘green jobs’ and a local economy and services that supports local jobs and the reduction in the need to commute etc. The Commitments are not supported by any SMART(specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and Time-bound) targets. While this may not be appropriate in the Strategy document it should be part of the Strategy that plans arising from this Strategy will have SMART targets.

- The data is not presented in a way that enables us to identify what the aims will achieve and when, which makes it difficult to answer this question. While many of the aims are positive, they are vague and at a very aspirational level which would need to be backed up with baseline data, targets, and timelines to have any real meaning. We also think there is a lack of coherence in the aims, for example:
 - On commitment 1a (we will be a net carbon zero organisation by 2030): reducing overall energy and reducing demand for fossil fuel are required. Sub-aims under 1a should also include sequestering carbon as this will directly contribute to it. Contributing to a greener grid is important but won't necessarily contribute to the CC's ambition to be carbon zero by 2030, unless it is proposed that WSCC own renewable energy generation is offsetting its emissions from its estate (sub-aim is unclear/ambiguous). We are also unclear how this relates to aim 1c (increase the amount of renewable energy used and generated in West Sussex) and note that producing renewable energy does not in itself contribute to carbon reduction.
 - On commitment 2 (adaptation and resilience): in relation to prioritising solutions to adapt and protect where most needed and to reduce the risks for the most vulnerable in our communities - a detailed mapping of where protection is most needed and who is included in the "most vulnerable" categories would entail detailed engagement with residents, communities and other relevant stakeholders (see comment on missing commitment above).
 - On commitment 4 (green economy): It is unclear why green tourism has been singled out. Other aims may be fine but ought to be part of a more detailed area-wide strategy.
 - On commitment 5 (transforming how we work). Aim 5c on decision making - the climate emergency should be embedded into and prioritised in all council decisions, policies, processes and work - visibility is not sufficient (could result in a tick-box exercise). In addition: specific reference should be made to the role of trade unions, specifically:
 - The role of trade unions and trades councils in working with WSCC to meet the challenges outlined in the first half of the draft. The TUC recommends the adoption of Just Transition Commissions, bringing together trade unions, businesses and local government to ensure decent jobs and to chart the path towards long-term energy transitions.
 - Support for union-led sustainability initiatives in every WSCC workplace.
 - Increased funding for learning and skills to prepare workers for the transition and provide a clear pathway to these new jobs. Aims need to include divestment from fossil fuels

- An excellent starting point but WSCC should aim higher and aspire to be a Beacon of Excellence, with Good, Green and Sustainable Practice
- WSCC needs to work in partnership with district, borough and parish councils and their climate change strategies, as well as with local businesses, churches and community groups including Horsham Churches Together, Horsham Eco Churches, Sussex Green Living, Horsham Repair Café.
- Not enough on engaging citizens in their role in wider county
- There is no mention of working together with District, Borough and Parish Councils. Appendix 3 is not referred to in the document, there is a lack of clarity about whether the commitments are over and above the policies and strategies in Appendix 3. The draft document feels like a framework, not a strategy and appears to be lacking in for example these areas which are included in: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S 84-page 'Surrey's Climate Change Strategy 2020': housing, planning, buildings, infrastructure, waste, land use, food systems and sustainable water supplies.
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/225615/Surreys-Climate-Change-Strategy-2020.pdf BRISTOL'S 74-page One City Climate Strategy 'A strategy for a carbon neutral, climate resilient Bristol by 2030': buildings, consumption and waste, public voluntary community and community and social enterprise services, food and infrastructure interdependencies and being prepared for future climate conditions and hazards.
<https://www.bristolonecity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/one-city-climate-strategy.pdf>
- Most of the aims are very welcome and appropriate but a stronger commitment in relation to biodiversity is important e.g. 'We will work with our partners to achieve biodiversity net gain' rather than 'We will increase opportunities to achieve biodiversity net gain'
- The commitments are not ambitious enough. For example:
 - The exercise of planning powers is itself a powerful and legitimate tool by which a planning authority can influence climate change outcomes beyond their own doorstep. WSCC is a planning authority in relation to waste and minerals (including energy) development. The WSCC Minerals Plan is very weak indeed policy wise, on the application of climate change mitigation to minerals and energy development proposals. We also have very recent experience of the council failing to give any consideration at all to the potential climate change impacts of an application to continue exploration for shale oil at Balcombe.
 - Both new energy and minerals development have potentially significant climate change impacts for better or worse, so the use of planning controls to influence behaviour is a powerful tool.
 - We would like the section "The Council's commitments" on p.9 of the draft to include additional language commit WSCC to review and upgrade climate change policies throughout their planning policy documents, and to

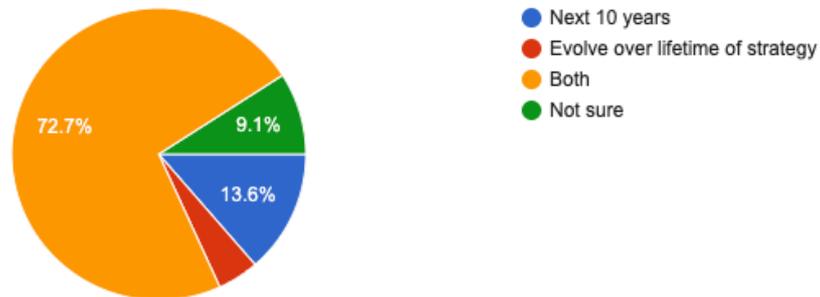
issue guidance to planning applicants on how that new policy will be applied, consistently with the better of their own and national climate change policy. That should be supplemented by a promise to give due weight to national climate change policy now, and to their upgraded policy when in place, in considering all relevant planning applications. We appreciate of course that changes to Plan policies involves a protracted consultation and examination process, so the sooner that is started the better! A clear commitment on this point. could lead to a real material change of direction.

- Other points which must be explicit are in relation to the support of major infrastructure projects which will generate significant carbon emissions such as Gatwick expansion and new roads, particularly proposals for bypasses along the A27. These are both examples where the council's influence is significant and the carbon emissions resulting from these projects will far exceed anything produced by the council's own transport fleet. Also, the design and quality of sustainable transport infrastructure leaves much to be desired in West Sussex and the council needs to go beyond just 'supporting sustainable transport', to delivering consistently high quality designs - not more shared paths which don't go anywhere.
- It is not clear how will the council work with local people and interests? Where are the Citizen Assemblies etc?
- It would be helpful if the delivery plan which will support this document could try and quantify the carbon emissions from the commitments i.e., direct - arising out of the Council's own activities, indirect - arising from electricity purchased by the Council and, all other indirect emissions – from Council activities occurring from sources that they do not own or control.

Question 10

Our delivery plan is under development, once the broad direction of the strategy is agreed. Do you expect to see a delivery plan that lists actions for the next 10 years, or should it evolve over the lifetime of the strategy?

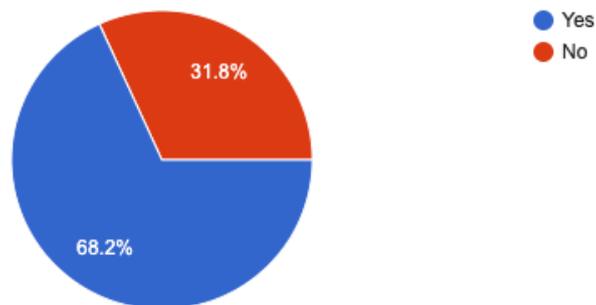
22 responses



Question 11

Is there work your organisation is doing on climate change that is able to be aligned to this strategy, to enable partnership working, better use of resources and wider impact?

22 responses



If yes, which documents may we refer to (either links, or a date if not yet published)

- I will need to get permission to share but there is a lot of information via the internet that discusses the environmental damage caused by intensive farming.
- Zero 2030 - available resources here: <https://futurecologic.co.uk/zero-2030/> - summary report in production and ongoing events/consultations etc to be determined soon.
- See MWHG and its FLOW, Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands National HLF project enhancing and improving wetlands on the MP Production of booklet on climate change and species; See MPP - much outlined in an unsuccessful funding application to the Climate Action Fund, CANUTE - Climate Action Now: Underwater and Terrestrial Environments

- Local groups like ours are already working on some of the areas covered in the WSCC strategy - in our case promoting better biking, managing flood risk etc.
- <https://rebellion.earth/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/XRUK-Strategy-Document-2020.pdf>
- 1. Work with BHESCO on helping our Henfield village community buildings reduce energy use. Could fit with a wider community energy strategy within WSCC area. 2. We would like to see the encouragement for joint working with local groups on climate resilience projects such as supporting the Adur Restoration Corridor proposals to rewind the Adur river banks from Beeding to Knepp.
- Our website: <https://xrchi.uk/>, Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/XRChichester>
- Eco-chi Website; Facebook Group; Weekly market stall which engages people in discussion; Local Talks given on Trees, Bio-Diversity, Waste Recycling in West Sussex, Climate Science; Liaison with the West Sussex Federation of Womens Institute (WSFNI) Climate Ambassadors; Repair Cafe; Meeting with Chichester District Council Climate Change Officer
- Through Horsham Churches Together (HCT) <http://horshamct.org.uk/>, Horsham Eco Churches encourage and inspire other churches on their Eco Church journey, using A Rocha UK's Eco Church award scheme. The free online survey and supporting resources equip churches to express care for God's world in their worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement and personal lifestyles. Actions taken count towards a prestigious Eco Church Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. Brighton Road Baptist Church and St. Mark's Church, Holbrook, both Silver Eco Church Award winning churches are now Going for Gold and seven other HCT Churches have already registered with the Eco Church scheme. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, committed to mobilising Christians and churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> Our Eco Church journeys include giving due consideration to the possibilities of generating renewable energy on our premises, managing our land for the encouragement of native wildlife, working with local sustainability movements, conservation and community clean-up projects, using food that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairtrade), reducing food waste, ethical investment of pension funds, personal and church savings, completing environmental lifestyle audits and reducing our church and personal carbon footprints. Horsham Eco Churches support and work in partnership with councils, community groups and organisations including Horsham Matters, Horsham District FoodBank, Sussex Green Living, Transition Horsham and South East Climate Alliance.
- <https://www.facebook.com/fairerworldlindfield>

- No Incinerator for Horsham Community Group (Ni4H) is a voluntary group formed in 2016 by local residents to raise awareness and campaign against the proposal for a large-scale incinerator in Horsham District, to import waste from a wide area across the Southern Counties. Britaniacrest Recycling Ltd lodged a planning appeal against refusal of planning permission by WSCC. Ni4H raised funds for a barrister and technical experts to represent as a Rule 6 Party at the Planning Appeal, the thousands of members of the public who object to permission being given to build the incinerator. Inspector Ian Jenkins allowed the appeal and granted planning permission subject to conditions. Ni4H remains committed to opposing the incinerator in Horsham and is closely monitoring the progress of the project and the application of the conditions. As the Government's 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy put it: "Residual waste is the mixed material that is typically incinerated for energy recovery or landfilled. Much of the products and materials contained in this waste could have been prevented, reused or recycled. This is inefficient not only because materials that hold value are being lost, but also incineration and landfill are the most expensive ways to treat waste". 'Residual waste' is a collection of material streams, many of which could have been captured for recycling, composting, or re-use. Stopping incinerators and commitments to incineration creates opportunities for these better alternatives to be adopted. Ni4H supports Horsham Climate Café, local 'Zero Waste' and 'Circular Economy' efforts such as re-use schemes and zero packaging shops to reduce what goes into the waste management system. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT COUNCIL'S CAN DO, please look at the 'Promoting alternatives to incineration' section of <https://ukwin.org.uk/act-locally/>
- <https://scayneshillvillage.co.uk/sustainability.html>. The articles included here give an overview of the group's activities
- Greening Steyning has just launched a 2030 Vision Survey which will give detailed feedback on what people in this area want our community to look like by 2030. This will be ready to share by late July. see: www.greeningsteyning.org The list of references in the draft look very out of date - e.g. the 2011 study.
- CPRE is launching its Climate Emergency Action Plan in July 2020 and we would be happy to share this work and partner with WSCC.

If no, what needs to change (in our strategy?)

- The strategy needs to be accelerated. Without a planet there will be no economy!
- Collate what exists - presumably the CDC Climate Change Officer will want to do that as she starts work. Make clear the risks of not addressing these issues for West Sussex.

- The strategy ignores aviation and so can't tackle the counties emissions until it includes the emissions produced by Gatwick Airport into the counties overall responsibility
- Sometimes it feels like Greener Graffham consists of just one person (despite over eighty people having signed up to the group - I think (hope) this is because people are just quietly doing their own thing.
- Question not clear
- There needs to be more on community engagement, business engagement, local environmental / sustainability group etc engagement. We would like to see WSCC commit to taking upon itself to inform, encourage and support both other tiers of local government within West Sussex and other county councils in the UK on matters of carbon emission reduction, climate resilience and adaptation, natural habitat restoration and biodiversity gain.
- There needs to be a broader outreach strategy including with grassroots/activists groups who are involved creating public awareness and government action on the climate emergency.

Question 12

Do you have any other comments that you would like to make about the proposed draft strategy?

- It would be great to have access to minutes from the oversight committee to gauge progress on a more regular basis than annually. Any reporting doesn't need to be fancy - succinct, honest and correct is more important and will help supporting orgs see where gaps or opportunities arise. We believe that is the next step - ie. how this important strategy is communicated and promoted that will be critical. It needs to hold the weight of the language and be promoted regularly across WSCCs publications.
- Well done everyone - great start! Many thanks, all at Worthing CAN
- The strategy needs to be accelerated. Without a planet there will be no economy!
- It's about time. I'm sorry but comments have been made about Climate Change when providing comments on WSCC policies over the last 12 years since the Climate Change Act 2008. MWHG members very interested in the Pollinator Action strategy; and please define the term Sustainable Development to cover Social, Economic and Environment/Ecological issues. I find a range of professions seek to dilute it even warp it so its essence is not made clear and it gets "fogged" out. Ensure the principles including Polluter Pays and Precautionary Principle are embedded in the strategy.
- Thank you for this opportunity but this questionnaire does not obtain enough detail for us to be able to input into the strategy thus we have written direct to

WSSC. This strategy will not be flawed if it is allowed to continue in its current stance, of ignoring the impact Gatwick is having on air quality and emissions produced by our county.

- We like lots of things about it. It's well-written and very clear about what its intentions are, the opportunities for the county council and the potential benefit of acting swiftly and decisively. As noted in answers above we think it could more clearly address the council's responsibilities as a local authority and thereby have a wider impact in the county.
- Monitoring of progress on implementing the plan should be every 6 months and the 10 year Plan should hit the ground running because the first 5 years will be the most crucial. WSSC Delivery Plan – we look forward to commenting on this as the devil is always in the detail! Many thanks to all at SECA for your hard work in gathering and disseminating this feedback!
- Pleased to see that the commitment for WSSC to be carbon neutral is now 2030. Also that the context of Covid-19 is stated and that climate resilience is considered. Emphasis on explaining this to the WSSC residents as an urgent high priority will be needed.
- COVID 19 has broken the mould; we don't have to go back to how we were. Seize this moment. Evolving while learning is good. Have plan and hold it lightly. Are the resources there to support the strategy?
- Apart from the sea-level rise map it seems the risks have not been analysed beyond generalised national and international projections. It would be good if the strategy could highlight West Sussex specific pressures and provide more scoping of the scenarios from best to worst case including, for example, food and farming and terrestrial ecosystem impacts? On the issue of sea-level rise, the strategy claims that sea levels 'may;' rise whereas the Met. Office clearly says that sea levels are rising due to climate change. On the point about the delivery plan care should be taken to ensure that while the plan should include ambitious long term targets it also includes short term targets as stepping stones to meet the long term targets. This will help with early identification of timetable slippage and the need to provide interventions and replanning, and allow for better accountability.
- The term "climate emergency" rather than "climate change" is used, including in the title of the document, in order to communicate the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate action (short-term actions should be stressed in the strategy). Greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut urgently. Reduction today is better than reduction tomorrow.
 - Even at the level of strategy on council operations only, further data and analysis is needed to enable us to know whether commitments and aims are adequate and whether there are other actions that council could or should be taking to reduce climate change, for example does the council own agricultural land which contribute to emissions of greenhouse gases

other than carbon (nitrous oxide emissions resulting from nitrogen fertilisers).

- More fundamentally, we strongly believe that WSCC should be adopting an area-wide climate emergency strategy/plan. This would necessarily need to recognise the limits of council control beyond operations but would include things that are under its control including transport across the county and not only in relation to council operations. This would place the council in the leadership role that it should be taking to address this emergency. We are seriously concerned that by focusing only on its own operations distracts time, attention and resources without addressing the much larger challenges that we are facing in the county and which appear to be being ignored by WSCC.
- There needs to be a practical way of keeping the Community update as like the Covid-19 Pandemic Emergency Response i.e. on the front page of the WSCC website with a routine measuring and regular reporting programme with the Website regular updated. Plus specific emailing.
- Whilst we welcome the focus on the most vulnerable in society and the environment, wider public consultation is needed and strengthening of the reference to engaging with and learning from others and continuous development. It would be helpful for a greater sense of urgency to run through the document.
- Given the lack of action on climate by MSDC, WSCC should be leading the way and giving clear direction and leadership on how the wider community can play their part on the county becoming Net Zero by 2050.
- Moving towards a circular economy is only mentioned in Appendix 1 and not within the strategy, this needs to be a primary focus in a Climate Change Strategy. Ni4H would welcome wider public consultation regarding the detailed policy measures to achieve the WSCC Climate Strategy aims, in a Carbon Reduction Plan and other documents, that are currently being worked on.
- Response from Transition Town Worthing Transport Group The climate emergency is about far more than future changes to temperature, rainfall and sea levels in West Sussex's back yard. The Red Cross estimates that two million people a week need humanitarian aid because of extreme weather linked to climate change. Mass migration of climate refugees is already with us. The critical loss of biodiversity is intrinsically linked to climate change. With around a third of CO2 emissions coming from transport providing clean and sustainable alternatives for personal and business travel need to be at the heart of any strategy for mitigating the climate emergency. A focus on adaptation will be too little too late and will see a good proportion of West Sussex under water. To say something positive we welcome their recent proposals under the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund and hope that the increased pace demanded by government in response to the Covid crisis can be reflected in County wide transport policy going forward with a rapid shift to low carbon, low impact travel and a massive reduction in the

amount of travel. The strategy is correct in saying that the climate crisis "will require radical transformation in how we work and live", but that it not what the document describes. It confirms that WSCC is stuck in a managerial 'problem solving' mindset: it does not lay out a vision of an urgent and fundamental shift in priorities. Transport is very much within the Council's direct control and it is failing big time on climate. There should be immediate, independent, scrutiny of WSCC's performance against its own stated objectives on tackling climate change in the West Sussex Transport Plan. WSCC's lack of urgency and action will hold back more progressive responses. The inadequacy of WSCC's response is shown up by comparison with Adur & Worthing's Position Statement on Planning and Climate Change, which was produced within 4 months of declaring a climate emergency. What next, when will it be put into action, who will set it, how can we help We look forward to commenting on WSCC Delivery Plan

- Draft WSCC Climate Change Strategy Feedback Arun & Adur Greenpeace
This is a very necessary document & requires target dates on all the action to ensure West Sussex is carbon neutral by 2030. Arun & Adur Greenpeace are campaigning on rewilding, reduction of fossil fuel use, cutting out plastics, good stewardship of the marine environment, a halt to road building & a better & cheaper public transport. We would be keen to see these issues included in your plan We hope this document will be communicated far & wide to all residents of West Sussex, it's important that it's adopted by everyone. WSCC Delivery Plan – we look forward to adding our comments & hope that delivery will happen very quickly
- This is a very encouraging start. The details of the delivery plan and the measurement of progress in desired behaviours and outcomes against targets will of course be crucial. Hopefully, maximum transparency will be offered in the sharing of this progress with communities.
- The strategy looks good as far as it goes. The key question is what happens next. It would look much more substantial if it gave details and a timeframe for when concrete action plans and targets will follow.
- The list of Current National Policy documents in appendix 1 extended to list the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change which the courts held in the so-called Heathrow case forms part of the Government's climate change policy through its endorsement of that Accord (and the Sec of State's failure to consider its implications leading to the court's conclusion that its impact assessment of Heathrow expansion was fatally flawed). So it is an important document to mention.
- Appendix 3 sets out 'Supporting Council Policies and Strategies'. It needs to be clear where the Climate Strategy fits in?