

Scrutinising councils: the SECA survey



- What is the SECA survey?
- What does it tell us?
- How useful is it ?

The SECA Survey of Council Climate Action

Find it on the 'Resources for councils' page of the SECA website

SECA Survey:	KENT	Climate Emergency action by councils in the South East								Community engagement					Council action		
Council	Climate Emergency Status	SECA member groups in the area	Council make up	Date of last update to this survey	Council Climate Action Plan	Target date	Target relates to council estate or whole area?	Baseline analysis of council and/or whole area emissions?	Is there a biodiversity strategy?	Notes	Lead Member and/or Designated Officer. Where does responsibility sit?	Finance allotted to climate plan	How is the council engaging with community groups?	Is there community representation on a formal advisory board?	Visioning events or awareness raising events run by council	SECA member group activity relating to council	Is the climate plan well and easily accessible?
Canterbury City Council	DECLARED July 2019	Canterbury Climate Action Partnership	Conservative majority	20/10/20 SB	Due early 2021. Draft corporate plan: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/files/roads/files/draft-corporate-plan-2020-2022	2030	council. However emissions targets/budgets for the district are being considered with KCC and the CCPartnership Board as part of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy	Has been evaluated for 2019-20 financial year. Includes scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as per the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Will be published with the Climate Action Plan in early 2021.	There is a Green Infrastructure strategy 2019-2021. The Landscape and Biodiversity Appraisal has been drafted as part of the Local Plan Review for which there will be public consultation in mid 2021.	Three interconnected consultation groups have been formed to push the climate agenda: (1) a Climate Change Working Group set up within Council; (2) The Canterbury Climate Action Partnership, involving local community groups; and (3) The Canterbury Climate Change Board involving some of the largest public & private sector emitters in the district. See blog describing model: https://ecimaincouncils.co.uk/engaging-stakeholders-in-climate-action-the-canterbury-model/ Immediate plans split out in Draft	Clr Dan Watkins, Chair of Climate Change Working Group Nicholas Thurston, Climate Change officer Falls under Policy and Resources Committee	£500,000 The financial implications of the pandemic resulted in this budget allocation being removed.	Canterbury Climate Action Partnership- community groups, organisations, business, local gov partnering for climate action in Canterbury district https://www.ccap.org.uk/	CCAP Chair, Dr Carl Wright, is part of the Council's Climate Change Partnership Board	The council has developed a programme of engagement events based on the 'Climate Conversations' approach	CCAP is a member of SECA	Document available 2021
Dartford Borough Council	DECLARED Dec 2019		Conservative majority	20/10/20 SB	No mention of this to be found	2030	?		None found	A cross party Working Group on Climate Change was planned (2019)							
Dover District Council	DECLARED Dec 2020			20/10/20 SB	A strategy and plan is awaited. https://www.dover.gov.uk/Environment/Climate-Change/What-is-the-council-doing-about-climate-change.aspx	2030	council whole area	Council reports on its own emissions yearly	Mention of green corridors	Cross party Climate Change Working Group							
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	DECLARED July 2019		Conservative 13 Green 6 Lab 5 other 6	20/10/20 SB	A plan is being developed https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/articles/2019/Climate-change	2030	council and whole area	Lower Energy have calculated council estate. Scatter tool to calculate district.		There is a cross-party Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group	£10m for initiatives	Community groups are listed on the climate change page of the website					
Gravesham Borough Council	DECLARED June 2019		Labour 22 Con 21 Indep 2	20/10/20 SB	http://democracy.gravesham.gov.uk/documents/55626/Report%20-%20Climate%20Change%20Emergency.pdf	2030	whole area			cross party working group. No plan found to date.							
Maldstone Borough Council	DECLARED April 2019		Conservative 25 Lib Dem 20 Indep 6 Labour 4	20/10/20 SB		consider 2030	for whole area			Asked Policy and Resources Committee to report back	£1 million set aside	Seeking views from residents'					
Medway Council (Unitary Authority)	DECLARED April 2019		Conservative majority	20/10/20 SB	Due Nov 2020. Progress report: https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgocmmt2/pdf.aspx?id=51203	2030	whole area	Analysis of council emissions in progress	Planned at later date	Cross party Climate change Members Advisory Group set up is signed up to Kent and Medway Energy and Low emissions strategy							Not available
Sevenoaks District Council	Motion passed Nov 2019	Sevenoaks FoE	Strong Conservative majority	21/10/20 SB	Zero 2030 report https://cdi.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/40051/044%20Net%20Zero%202030%20191.pdf?1-1	2030	council + leadership for whole area	Analysis of council emissions in progress	Working with KCC on Kent Biodiversity Strategy, and will be considered for adoption by SOC this year	In Nov 2019 a Zero 2030 report was endorsed by Full Council. Progress against the plan will be reported to the council. KCC and Green Communities in December 2019 and Green in February	Clr Peter Fleming Leader of council Clr Margot McArthur		There is a plan to host a Climate Summit involving communities				The Zero 2030 Full Council from Nov 20 19 can be found here https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/zero2030
Swale Borough Council	DECLARED June 2019		Coalition of Labour, Indep, Lib	21/10/20 SB	https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s14486	2025 for council ops, 2030 for	whole area	Done	Yes, as part of	Excellent council							

<http://bit.ly/SECAclimateactionsurvey>

The SECA survey

It started in 2019 :

- National government was doing little
- Local government was doing little
- No national reporting of climate action

SECA decided to focus on our local councils

The SECA survey evolves ..

2019 : Has the council declared a climate emergency

2020: Is there a climate action plan ?

Does the action plan cover just the workings of the council itself or the whole area? What are the target dates ?

The SECA survey evolves..

2020: How does climate feature on the council website?

What's happening with community engagement?

2021: Is there a biodiversity strategy?

2022: Has the council produced an annual report on climate action?

SECA survey: process

Small team of volunteers (*Sally Barnard, Alison Marshall, Pat Smith, Thalia Griffiths*)

- Website searches and emails
- Updated approx every 6 months
- We copy in local SECA groups to our letters, especially if we know you are actively engaged with the council

SECA survey: council contacts

Roughly 50% reply in some form

We ask for updates

We aim to be constructive and non partisan

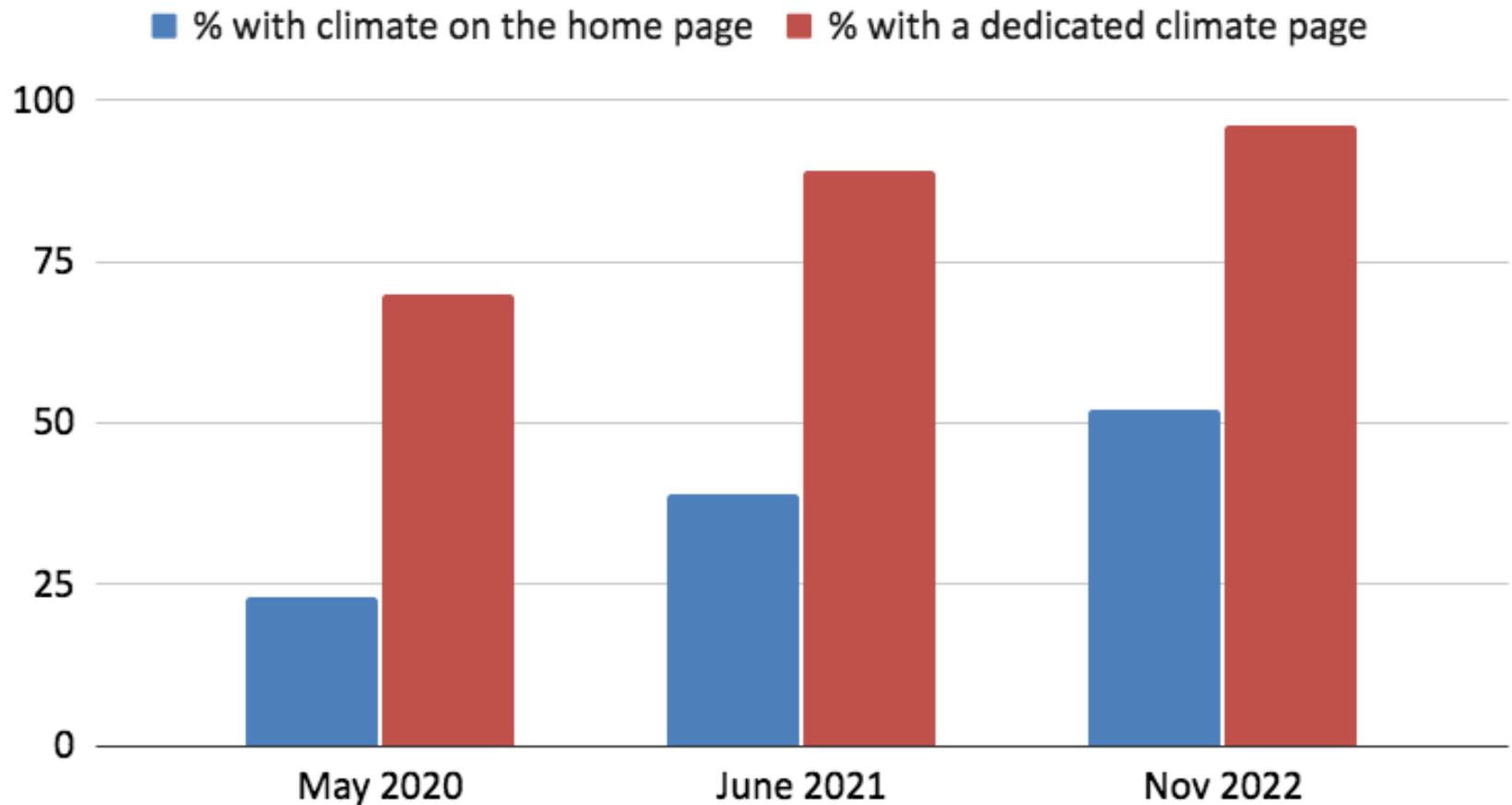
SECA survey: what does it tell us?

Definite big shift over 4 years, despite lack of support from national Govt :

- All 56 have either declared a climate emergency or passed a climate motion
- All but one council have published a climate action plan (Dartford)
- Councils are accepting their responsibility to lead on the emissions of the wider area

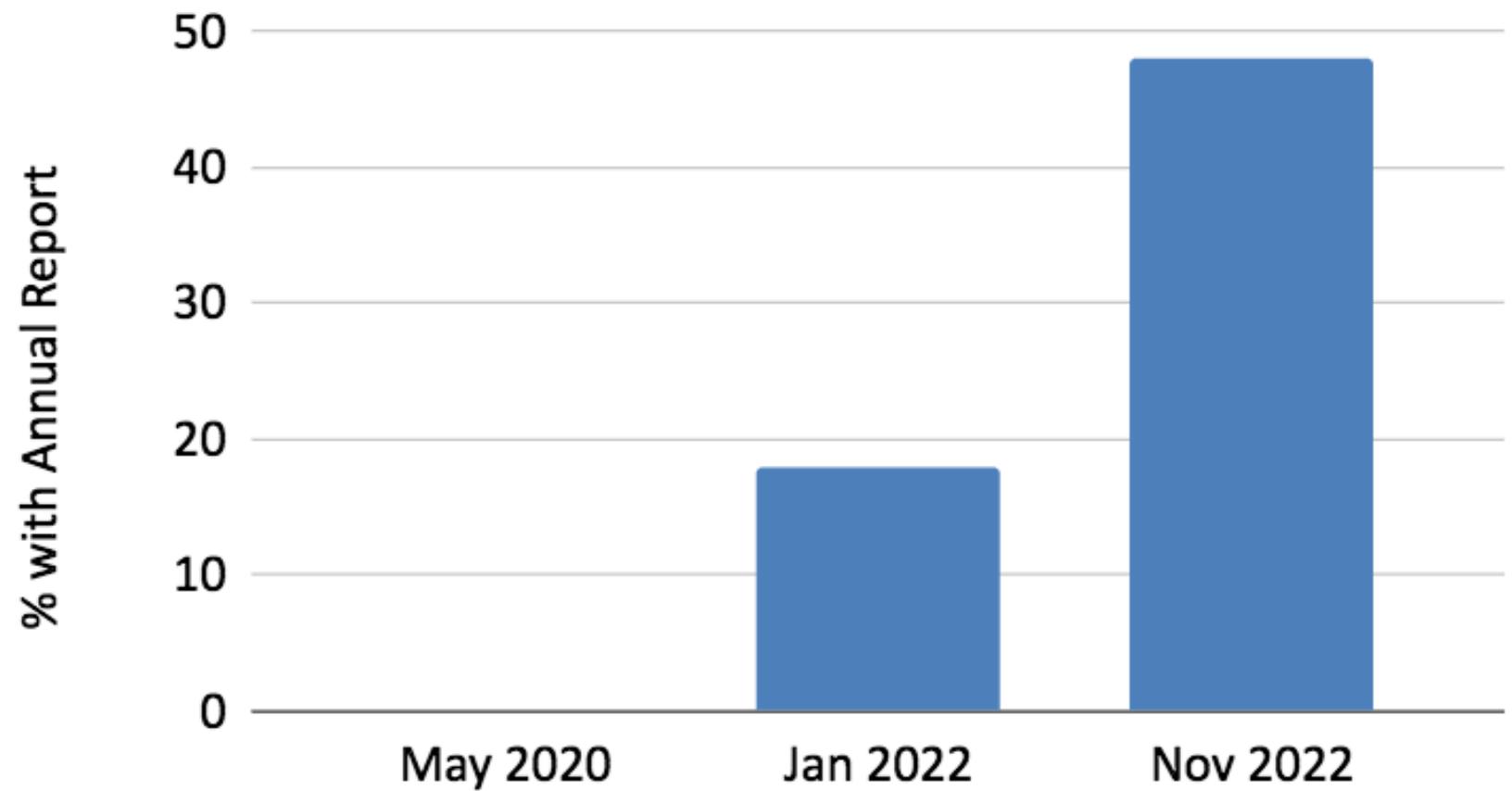
Council websites – progress in past 3 years

Analysis of Council Websites



Progress with annual reports on climate action

Have Councils published Annual Reports?



SECA survey: what is it's value?

A sustained series of nudges for councils :

- Councils know we are here and that we are backed by 130 community groups.
- Councils know they are being compared, and see other councils making progress
- Sharing good practice

SECA survey: what is it's value?

LIMITATIONS:

- We haven't publicised the survey beyond SECA
- The survey is subjective in parts. It is open to challenge.
- Now the main job has moved on to monitoring COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION ... too detailed a task for us

Scoring council climate action



We've been filling a gap ...

over to Climate
Emergency UK !

The CEUK Climate Action
Scorecard



What can you do?

SECA survey:

Feed back any updates/contacts for your council.

Tell us if your group would like to be copied in to our letters.

CEUK scorecards:

Volunteer to help with scoring and/or donate if you can

Get to know the new CEUK scorecard system and use it to engage with your local council