

# Uttlesford Climate & Biodiversity Emergency



Extreme weather conditions are hitting us even faster and harder than scientists anticipated and with more frequency and ferocity.

*People are already dying and species are becoming extinct with current temperatures. We have locked in centuries of sea level rise. 1.5C has become the talisman for the safest we can hope for this century. But the more we learn, the more we realise **there is no safe limit [for emissions]**.*

Experience has shown that local government is a good place to start government commitment to climate emergency action and they are fundamental in the climate emergency response. UDC are proud that we have addressed this serious issue by declaring a cross party climate & ecological motion in July 2019.

A **Climate Emergency Working Group CEWG** was set up in August and agreed by Cabinet in September 2019.

Our working group includes cross party councillors, officers and outside invited members. Five key sub-groups were set up **1) Transport/Air Quality 2) Biodiversity 3) Energy 4) Waste & Recycling 5) Planning & Development** and two that focused on community and government influence **6) Raising Awareness** and **7) Lobbying**.

The **CEWG** are working towards a **Climate Crisis Action Plan**. We have already published our **Climate Crisis Strategy Plan** in February 2021.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7103/Climate-change-strategy>

The **role of CEWG members** is to seek 'aspirational' enterprising solutions that will help to drastically reduce our carbon emissions. This will involve prioritising key objectives, adopting other council's successful policies, as well as developing unique policies of our own. Officers will guide and support us on relevant funding, measurability and viability.

Due to the heavy workload involved in implementing our Climate Crisis Action Plan, we appointed a **new full time Climate Officer (end of April 2021)**, who has been working hard and **focusing our two largest CO2 emitters (transport & energy) and biodiversity**.

For this financial year **(April 2021), we have been granted £1m to spend on climate change**. Our Climate Officer is reviewing our three key priorities (transport, energy and biodiversity), in some detail so we can spend taxpayer's money wisely. Green infrastructure ***is constantly evolving and it's expensive to install and can easily become obsolete***. We need to take

some time to review the latest green technology so that UDC can develop a 'best carbon for value spending policy'. Exploring **long-term** investments requires careful research, as well as looking into different available funding pots. **Timing is also crucial** - some councils have lost money investing in some energy saving schemes.

Uttlesford District Council will be the exemplar and will lead on adopting and promoting green objectives.

## **COUNCIL**

**UDC have switched to a green energy tariff. The Council can claim 100% reduction (i.e zero carbon dioxide), from electricity and in the case of biogas, is a 72% reduction in CO2 emissions.**

### **Other action taken**

200+ plus staff are now working from home

Most council meetings are now held over zoom

Low energy lighting

Replacement of grounds maintenance equipment with electrically powered alternatives

Replacement of gas boiler with A rated boiler

TVR's on radiators

Water is filtered

X2 electric vans

X8 EV charging points installed at \*London Road

Secure cycle racks – front & back

90 council owned properties have had heat pumps installed, 80 properties have had oil boilers replaced, we've upgraded boilers at our two leisure centres, 280 council owned properties have had external wall insulation, solar panels installed on 300 council owned properties, solar array on Lord Butler bowls club and 44KW array at our Shire Hill waste depot (cost £200k).

Vans within the Grounds Maintenance team - **data is being compiled across the organisation.**

We are **focusing on our current fleet and refuse trucks and reviewing sustainable replacement times, sustainable options available and costs for replacement.** Council **currently own two electric vans** however, until other vehicles will be replaced, trips taken by the council will be reviewed and we will look at changes and organising different activities to take place on one day and pool sharing to cut down on our carbon footprint. **Refuse trucks will be replaced in the next 3-5 years** (£600k – £900k). Hopefully, as demand for new green refuse trucks increases and new technology advances, the cost will go down and new cheaper sustainable options will become available (hydrogen). In the meantime, we are **looking at installing some with solar panels** and a review by the Energy Saving Trust has been booked and they will produce bespoke recommendations for our organisation. This review is free of charge and impartial, the EST is Government funded.

We will **install solar panels** and a **water recycling vehicle cleaning system** at our **new depot in Little Canfield**.

**Please note:** UDC do not own many suitable buildings to install solar panels. Uttlesford District Council based in London Rd is a listed building and wrong orientation, the museum is a listed building, Depot at Newport has an asbestos roof.

## **AIR QUALITY/TRANSPORT**

Improving air quality can deliver **substantial health benefits**; reducing air pollution levels means reducing premature deaths and diseases from stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and both chronic and acute respiratory diseases, including asthma. the most harmful air pollutant.

Measured air pollution in 2020 has reduced significantly from previous years due to Covid-19 related national lockdowns and regional tiered restrictions because of the reduced traffic movements.

### **Air Quality**

**Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) August 2021** has been published.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/11129/2021-Air-Quality-Annual-Status-Report-ASR/pdf/Uttlesford-2021-ASRA.pdf?m=637701755131270000>

Officers are working closely with ECC and exploring all possibilities for reducing traffic by **encouraging a shift to active travel, reducing unnecessary pollution caused by unavoidable traffic, and supporting the transition to low emission vehicles**. There are sub-measures and projects within each of these broad categories, which include establishing targets that are reasonable without sacrificing ambition, and delivery models and mechanisms.

We will also engage with residents and local stakeholders to develop policies and solutions to improve Air Quality at high-risk locations and **conduct an Independent review** on the different kinds of vehicles that are causing congestion. **Review, develop and introduce enforcement measures** to deal with problems associated with idling and parking, which is impacting on local congestion.

The council now has two permanent monitoring stations within Saffron Walden – the other is at the junction of Thaxted Road/East Street – as well as a network of diffusion tubes (37) to aid the ongoing work to improve local air quality within the district.

### **We have 5 NO2 tubes outside the following schools:**

Great Easton Primary School

High Stile Primary School Gt Dunmow

Thaxted Primary School

St Marys Primary School, Hampton Rd, Stansted

Elsenham Primary School

**They were put up in Jan 2020**

## **Transport**

**ECC are responsible for footpaths, roads, cycling lanes and public transport/buses (including school transport).**

Rural areas are often more reliant on cars and offer fewer options for active travel and public transport.

We know that residents can be highly dependent on their cars - many of the things we do in our daily lives assume the use of a car for everyday travel. They need to be electric, and there should be enough available infrastructure to charge electric vehicles easily.

**Surface transport is responsible for 70% of our carbon emissions as a district.**

Surface transport is the highest emitting category of CO2 in the district, even when data from the M11 is removed. **The M11 is considered to DEFRA to be outside the remit of local authorities, while all other roads are within it.** Recent improvements in vehicle emissions have been counteracted by trends towards larger vehicles and population growth, meaning that emissions are climbing, especially on local roads (as opposed to A roads).

***The best alternatives to driving are walking & cycling, followed by bus and train travel. They need to be more widely available and more attractive options for residents, with safer roads for walkers and cyclists, cost effective public transports and all these options easy and convenient to use.***

Work is currently in progress on a **cycle strategy for Uttlesford** and a **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**. This will be complemented by an **active travel survey** across the district to help identify barriers to active travel and opportunities to improve infrastructure. **Saffron Walden will be the pilot cycling scheme.** S106 demand management funding of £500k from Linden Homes for walking & cycling will be made available by Highways to upgrade cycling lanes in Saffron Walden to be complemented by a package of behaviour change incentives. **This scheme will be rolled out to Dunmow and other major towns like Stansted Mountfitchet** using lessons learned from the first.

We've **installed cycle racks in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow** and at **Audley End train station.**

**We have installed x32 new EV charging points.**

**White St Car park, Dunmow** - 4 x 7kW floor/post mounted - dual outlet Fast Charger - 8 charging outlets total.

**Chequers Lane Car Park, Dunmow** - 4 x 7kW wall mounted - dual outlet Fast Charger - 8 charging outlets total.

**Crafton Green Car Park, Stansted Mountfitchet** – 4 x 7kW floor/post mounted - dual outlet Fast Charger – 8 charging outlets total.

These charging points were funded through an OZEV Grant (75%), for the infrastructure and the charging units were funded by BP Pulse (25%), who manufacture the charging units. The total funding/project cost to install the EV chargers within the three car parks had to be under £100k in total. These three car parks were selected because of their proximity to a mains power supply.

### **Charging units owned by UDC**

**\*London Road, Saffron Walden** - 4 x 7kW floor/post mounted - dual outlet Fast Charger – 8 charging outlets total.

**The Common Car Park, Saffron Walden** - dual outlet – 22kW Fast EV charging post (installed November 2019).

**Lord Butler Leisure Centre** – dual outlet – Rapid charging outlet – 50kW rapid charger.

### **34 No. charging outlets in total.**

Other projects identified by the decarbonisation mapping project include maps of streets in Uttlesford which have mostly on-road parking, which helps us to forecast EV charge point demand and plan delivery of charge points.

### **Legal challenge - Stansted Airport expansion**

**Stansted is the biggest single source of CO2 emissions in the East of England.** Even though Stansted Airport is regarded outside of our area of carbon control, **UDC's decision to challenge expansion** and to allow 43,000 million passengers a year, **could have saved 1 million tonnes of CO2 a year.** UDC lost the appeal however, they took it back to the High Court on grounds that government changed their sixth carbon budget policy to slash emissions by 78% by 2035 and this included aviation and shipping emissions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

The High Court declined to review the plans and UDC was notified on 1 October that its application has been rejected. No further action will be taken.

The airport committee also discussed what UDC could contribute towards Government's **night-flights restrictions policy** and supporting a 'phased out' total ban by 2030.

***The International Energy Agency (IEA), has shown there can be no new investment in fossil fuels if we are to meet our climate targets.***

### **BIODIVERSITY**

In Essex, hotter, drier summers brings water shortages – we are already one of the areas with the highest pressure on our water supplies in the summer. We are also seeing increased risks of subsidence. Essex is identified as one of the areas most affected as clay in the county is vulnerable to losing moisture leading to ground cracking and shrinking.

## **Land use and forestry removes 3% of our district's carbon emissions from the atmosphere.**

The **biodiversity mapping survey is now closed**. Our Biodiversity study closed at the end of September. To identify areas where we as a district council can help improve local biodiversity, the council asked residents to help map environmentally important areas. The responses will be collated and projects for funding will begin to be planned. ECC has been following progress of this survey and they are considering using it as a template to roll out in all districts. We have received 572 responses for this survey!

**Special verges** - There are 46 Special Roadside Verges in Uttlesford district. UDC's Natural Science Officer, Sarah Kenyon and colleagues at ECC and other district councils have **compiled an up-to-date online map with the location of the verges across Uttlesford (and throughout Essex)**.

We already **leave roadside verges for rewilding during the summer months** and when we do mow in September/October, flowers should have had a chance to shed their seeds and verges should look even better the following year. This also corresponds with hedge cutting, which we tidy up for winter and let them grow again in the spring.

We are **promoting 'Green Champions' throughout the district** and encouraging our wider community to work jointly together to preserve and protect our local biodiversity. ***This is critical due to 41% of UK species declining and one in ten are threatened with extinction.***

In total **490 trees have been planted, together with 450 hedging plants**. Given the COVID pandemic, we consider that this has been some achievement. Without the efforts of Mark Felton and his grounds maintenance team in carrying out planting and the making of the tree deliveries to the parishes, this could not have been achieved. This scheme was closed from April 2021 until the new tree planting season started again in October/November (through to March).

UDC's Landscape Officer (Ben Smeeden), has **emailed all town and parish councils asking them to bring forward any sites in their control which may be suitable for woodland planting**. He has asked for **contact details of PCs nominated Tree Wardens** so he can update our list. He is also looking again across UDC's estate to see where there are **tree planting opportunities** and looking at the possibility of **new woodland planting**. Takely Parish Council has put forward some land for tree planting and the landscape officer is drawing up planting plans that are appropriate for the location.

**Water** - Over-abstraction of the chalk aquifer is having a detrimental impact on environmental conditions, particularly during dry seasons that may become more frequent due to the impacts of climate change. Chalk streams are both rare and sensitive. As a nation, we are custodian of more than 80% in the world. Harvesting of rainwater, is therefore essential. **Our 'Water Champion' and Deputy Chair Cllr Pavitt is raising local awareness and lobbying government for tighter planning and enforcement regulations**. We are now asking developers to supply water butts for new developments and encouraging residents to purchase one.

**Other key biodiversity objectives** will be best green practice and management for roadside and special verges and working with local farmers and best farming practices.

## **ENERGY**

Energy provides heat and electricity for our homes and places of work, and powers our transport but a long-standing reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. coal, gas and oil, has resulted in energy generation being responsible for 21 per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, which is a huge contributor to the climate crisis.

**Housing energy use is responsible for 18% of our carbon emissions as a district.**

**Please note the various challenges UDC faced in 2020 due to the pandemic and shielding.**

- ECO and ECO FLEX schemes for boilers and insulation - limited ability to deliver with lockdown so progressing slowly
- Warm Homes Fund – 2 installs to date, again limited uptake by residents because of lockdown and installer restrictions
- GHG (greenhouse gases) – gave advice to residents
- GHG – boiler and insulation local authority scheme – no installs to date (funding for 14 properties available) again limited uptake by residents because of lockdown

**Officers are exploring all possibilities in terms of grants for retrofit.**

The **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme 2 (LAD2)** has **£248k** allocated for Uttlesford. The **LAD2** grant funding for home insulation measures for low-income households is being delivered across Uttlesford by Warmworks, and we await to hear if we were successful in our bid for the **LAD3** round of funding.

**Private housing is the second highest emitting category of CO2**

**There are a number of initiatives and grants available to help you keep warm**

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/grants-and-assistance-for-householders#green-homes-grant>

## **Industry and commerce - Uttlesford**

**Industry and commerce are responsible for 15% of our carbon emissions as a district. 46% is electricity and 21% is gas.**

Large scale fact-finding projects are underway to map and define potential area-based decarbonisation projects across the district. The initial (grant-funded) report from Energy Catapult has been received and this maps the **potential for mass installations of rooftop-PV**. The 3 most concentrated neighbourhoods with potential are in the south of the district and could provide over 2MWh of power. Discussions are under way with ECC and other partners to identify a funding and delivery model that might remove the financial barriers to homeowners wishing to take advantage of solar power.

Within the capabilities of UDC, **we will be exploring possibilities to work alongside parishes to upgrade their community buildings.** Grant funding will be pursued wherever possible.

The planning policy team are drafting a **solar farm planning policy** but in the interim, they are using national best practice. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7282/Solar-farms>

**Work continues on a checklist for new developments** – this checklist would provide information on the energy efficiency of new development in a consistent and comparable format, that would also provide meaningful information for the lay reader.

## **WASTE**

***A staggering 700,000 tonnes of household waste are being collected every year by Essex County Council*** and the 12 Essex city, district, and borough councils, with even more being picked up by commercial waste companies from our homes, businesses, and industry.

Waste management directly contributes four per cent to UK greenhouse gas emissions. Although this doesn't sound a lot, the choices we make can have a big impact on how resources are used, and the amount of waste produced.

All waste treatment methods, such as landfill, incineration, recycling, or composting have negative impacts on emissions and will likely be a net contributor to our carbon emissions output. Reducing waste at source is therefore key to tackling the challenges we face.

***Essex sent over 320,000 tonnes of waste to landfill last year.*** We want to see this reduced. By 2030: Essex should commit to send zero waste to landfill sites.

**Uttlesford recycled at least 58% of waste collected immediately after the Christmas period.** With more people staying at home and changing buying habits, we saw a big increase in the amount of waste produced immediately ahead of Christmas.

Collection crews worked hard during our catch-up period and **collected over 275 tonnes of food waste and just over 700 tonnes of co-mingled recyclable materials.**

Since the first national lockdown, the nature and volume of waste produced across the district has changed, with notable increases in the amount of glass and cardboard being presented for collection.

Like all districts, we have seen growth in the overall volume of waste being produced alongside changes in the specific materials. We will need to monitor these changes to see whether this is just a short-term change.

### **What happens to my waste and recycling?**

We ask you to separate your waste into different coloured bins; we even ask you to take your textiles to recycling banks located throughout the district. But then where does it all go?

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5232/What-happens-to-my-waste-and-recycling>

## **Taking action on single-use plastic**

The Chair's Charter is a new scheme aimed at encouraging residents, businesses, schools and other organisations to take small, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint and single-use plastics waste. The Charter was adopted as part of our commitment to taking positive action on the climate crisis. Residents are asked to make their own pledges, stating what actions they would like to take to tackle these issues. Actions can be big or small, with plenty of room for creativity!

You can get involved in the project – let us know the actions you have taken to reduce plastic waste. Get in touch by emailing [wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk) or share on our FB page.

We are planning on **installing a number of dual recycling bins throughout the district** as part of the Chairman's Charter. We are in the process of confirming the locations with Parish Councils before the installation. **There are approximately 16 bins being installed throughout the district in the initial rollout**, and if they prove successful, we will of course look at installing more.

## **UDC - Recycling contamination**

Contamination of recycling is a constant issue. Nappies and food waste being put in the recycling bins are a particular problem.

We have **posted a video on our social media channels** to remind residents about what items should not be put in the recycling bin.

[https://www.facebook.com/UttlesfordDC/videos/recycling-contamination/256061829355426/?\\_\\_so\\_\\_=permalink&\\_\\_rv\\_\\_=related\\_videos](https://www.facebook.com/UttlesfordDC/videos/recycling-contamination/256061829355426/?__so__=permalink&__rv__=related_videos)

The posts include a link to the online [\*Can I recycling it?\*](#) tool which is a very useful guide on what items go in what bin.

Find out what is accepted in your general rubbish and recycling, as well as how to book a special collection or apply for a clinical waste collection.

<https://www.lovessex.org/recycling-at-home/uttlesford/>

## **Recycling unwanted items - What is Freegle?**

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Freegle is an online platform that allows you to give and get things for free in your local community. It's easy to sign up, simple to use, and completely free. Best of all though, it's kind to the planet as it can save pre-loved items from going to landfill.

There are currently 20 local Freegle groups across Essex, with over 70,000 members. In 2020, 164 tonnes of 'stuff' was reused through the platform, saving an estimated 83.8 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

<https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/freegle/>

### **Raising awareness on litter**

UDC are positively engaging with ECC and all Litter Authorities (district, borough and city councils) across the County. Uttlesford is part of the Cleaner Essex Group which aims to reduce litter related issues and is supported by local authorities and some industry representatives such as fast-food retailers. The Cleaner Essex Group co-ordinates all public information campaigns on litter issues across the County and we will continue to participate in the group and support its aims.

UDC distributed litter picking kits to a number of community litter pick organisations. Kits were also made available through libraries across the county including Uttlesford. This supports the Councils' ongoing efforts to help support groups that want to take greater care of their local areas by providing resources such as litter picking kits, gloves, bags and removal of waste collected.

Our Environment services team are actively looking at visiting schools to talk to children about a range of environmental issues, including resources, waste, litter and climate change. At the current time the majority of schools are cautious about the covid implications of school visits or are not yet able to consider allowing additional visits.

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

To minimise the need for travel, all new developments (residential, business, tourist etc.), need to be built in the right place, designed around sustainability – designing out the need to travel. Where this isn't possible sustainable and active travel should be embedded in full, from the start.

All new developments: homes, schools, offices, retail, and leisure should all be built to a much higher standard. The aim should be for greener, climate resilient, net carbon zero developments which provide balanced communities, with easy walking access to work, shops, and a good quality environment.

Building homes means we need to provide the associated facilities for employment, health, and schools. ***It is critical we minimise the carbon emissions of these buildings.*** The County has responded to this in setting ambitious targets to achieve net zero emissions in its **new schools by 2022 and to be carbon positive by 2030 (ECC responsibility).**

Our buildings are also facing new challenges from our changing weather. Nationally, around 4.5 million homes overheat, even in cool summers; 1.8 million people live in areas at significant risk of flooding; and average UK water consumption is higher than in many other European countries.

The UK Government has brought in a new [Future Homes Standard](#) and from 2025 new build homes will be required to have low carbon heating such as heat pumps, and much higher levels of energy efficiency. However, every building we build today that is not net zero will need to be updated and retrofitted before 2050, increasing costs for future residents and business owners.

Essex Design Guide ([essexdesignguide.co.uk](http://essexdesignguide.co.uk)) to be updated to reflect best environmental practice in net zero and resilience.

## Uttlesford



**Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document** published in February 2021– UDC are resolute about climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and why net zero and climate resilient standards should be mandatory for all new homes and buildings now. All developers are required to read our document before they submit planning applications.

[https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/10714/interim-climate-change-policy/pdf/Interim\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_01.03.21\\_PDF\(1\).pdf?m=637502093891130000](https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/10714/interim-climate-change-policy/pdf/Interim_Climate_Change_Planning_Policy_01.03.21_PDF(1).pdf?m=637502093891130000)

### ***Climate Change first, not fabric.***

Homes should be built to a **passive standard** with heat pumps, EV charging points for electric cars & solar panels to offset or similar and built to the highest standard (BREEM excellence). **Lower carbon materials** to be used in construction like timber and hemp for insulation. The summer heatwaves of 2020 in the UK, resulted in 2,556 deaths (***the highest ever recorded***) therefore, **draft proofing housing** is essential for mitigating extreme heat conditions (especially for the elderly, young and vulnerable). Building in the right places and avoiding climate impacts like **flooding** (house insurance will become a problem in flood zones), **SuDS (sustainable drainage systems)**, to manage surface water run-off, **water efficiency** (optional requirement' of 110 litres per person per day in 'water stressed areas'). ***Water abstraction is Uttlesford's greatest concern.*** Chalk streams are both rare and sensitive. Last year, the Cam and the Ouse, were the only principle rivers in England rated by the Environment Agency as exceptionally low. The East is also one of the driest parts of the UK. ***Grey water recycling and harvesting of rainwater is therefore essential (water butts).***

**Biodiversity is also vitally important. Existing trees, hedges and woodland should be left** as they already provide homes for our local wildlife and act as crucial carbon sinks. **New tree and hedgerow planting** and they **require green maintenance – who will be**

**responsible?** Conditions can be applied requiring any new planting, and/or existing trees to be retained, which die, are seriously damaged, or removed, within five years of the completion of the development to be replaced. Such planning conditions are effective and enforceable. We want **bird and bat boxes, allotments** and **areas left for rewilding & wildflowers** (established brambles should not be removed). **Fencing should have holes for hedgehogs.** Working alongside RSPB is advantageous.

Government biodiversity net gain assessment <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development>

## **RAISING AWARENESS**

There are many ways we can galvanize our local community to participate in what needs to be done. Through local media and our Council & Parish and Town websites and local FB sites. We are already encouraging 'Green Champions' throughout the district and provided a webpage for simple steps to fight climate change <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/simple-steps-to-fight-climate-change>. Letters have been published in the local paper and to date, this has been extended to schools, businesses and local communities. Cllr Pepper attended the Eco- Market at the Big Green Week in Saffron to support local sustainability and Cllr Pavitt to raise local water concerns. The following week, Cllr Pepper, Cllr P Gadd, Cllr T Roberts were at the Railway Arms (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021) to chat to residents about any climate concerns they may have. Cllr Light, Cllr Pavitt and Communities Officer John Starr popped down to offer support. A special 'thank you' to Edward Gildea for his time and generosity in arranging this important event, leading up to COP26.

Cllr Pepper has started to regularly join committed Thaxted climate campaigners to help to raise climate awareness and how local residents can get involved.

## **LOBBYING**

Cllr Pepper has emailed eight letters to Dunmow Broadcast. 1) What positive environmental changes have occurred during lockdown 2) The importance of rewilding 3) A green recovery 4) Why is airport expansion bad for the planet 5) What is Uttlesford doing to address the climate & ecological emergency 6) What can individuals do to address climate change 7) What can businesses do to address climate change 8) What can schools do to address climate change 8) More sustainable planning regulations required.

Cllr Pepper has written to 1) Government on "Preparing for a sustainable future", regarding transitioning to a greener economy and making sure the fossil fuelled industry bail-out came with green strings attached. This also highlighted Uttlesford District Council's key green objectives 2) Climate Minister Lord Duncan (cc Kemi Badenoch) titled "The future is in our hands". The urgency to carrying on reducing our emissions hasn't gone away. We need to harness our greener lifestyle change and adopt robust green policies and a green economy 3) Wrote to Boris Johnson (cc Lord Duncan & Kemi Badenock), titled "Our future is in your hands". Due to covid 19 and lack of funding for 2020-2021, Local Authorities have been forced to review "essential spending only". Cllr Pepper suggested Central Government takes the same approach and pumps money into existing services and infrastructure which

desperately require funding and upgrading. Building more roads is carbon intensive and creates more traffic and pollution. We need to build towards a climate smart recovery. 4) Emailed Kemi Badenoch and wrote to Robert Jenrick and Grant Shapps, stressing that allowing expansion to go ahead will have grave impacts on our local environment and climate change and [the cost to the planet, far outweighs the cost to the council](#).

Cllr Pepper has emailed MP Kemi Badenoch 1) x 2 supporting the Local Electricity Bill, highlighting the environmental threat regarding the white planning paper and her latest November report was forwarded for her perusal 2) Highlighting on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, Uttlesford District Council put forward a Deposit Return Scheme motion, to encourage increased recycling of glass, plastic bottles and cans. The Council also urged the Government to consider wider fiscal measures to ensure producers of ALL packaging (particularly 'on the go' products), make them reusable or readily recyclable through existing infrastructure 3) Asking for Boris and the Chancellor Rishi Sunak, to consider reversing their decision to end the Furlough scheme on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 and not to replace it with a new job support scheme for part-time workers (Job Support Scheme) 4) Raising resident's concerns regarding the current white planning paper and the news about wildlife decline across the country and the need to prepare for the challenges of the 21st century. Highlighting, our planning system should be there to help tackle the climate and the ecological and health crisis 5) Central government's thinking that devolving local authorities during a time of great uncertainty is not a good idea. Just when security and stability should be paramount 6) The serious need for central government to 'step- up' and take drastic action to reduce the UK's carbon emissions (this included making net carbon buildings law now and not in 2025).

Deputy Chair Cllr Pavitt has written to our local MP Kemi Badenoch and Lord Riberio, raising serious local concerns around water abstraction and seeking their support. He has submitted an Independent press release highlighting the environmental importance of Chalk streams, the current local quality rating (poor) and the Summer flow (what little there is), being almost entirely recycled with sewage outflow. He is encouraging communities to get involved in monitoring and caring for their local river and has set up an action group for the Cam [Curat.org.uk](http://Curat.org.uk).



***It is our duty to protect the planet for the next generation***

