

Climate Change Annual Update 2024

E&E Select Committee – November 2024

Fabian B. Oyarzun - Head of Climate Action

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Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- Our focus: the 9 levels for Climate Change Strategy.



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- **Global Climate Action**



Despite significant funding delivered, COP28 revealed slow progress.



Current climate finance is far short of the trillions required globally.

Need for a **43%** reduction in global emissions by **2030** to stay on the **1.5°C** pathway.



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- **UK National Climate Action**



GHG emissions continue to decrease.
Transport → Main emitting sector.



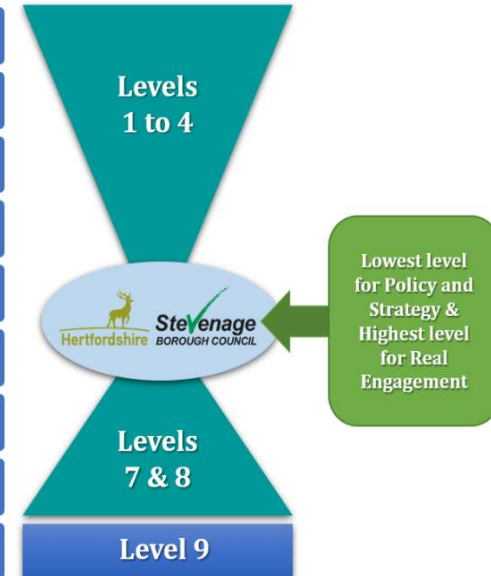
The UK aims to cut emissions by **68%** by **2030** and reach **net-zero** by **2050**.



New Government → More stable funding for LAs long-term climate action.



Despite progress, just **1/3** of the target reductions backed by **credible plans** (CCC).



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- **Large Businesses**



Stevenage hosts prominent businesses (aerospace, biotechnology, defence) → On track to meet corporate net-zero targets.



The Council continues to collaborate to share best practices and learnings.

Study Cases:
Bioscience Catalyst
Fujitsu



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- **Regional / Countywide**



HCCSP → Crucial for SBC's climate action, facilitating collaboration, securing investment, and coordinating projects for greater impact.



Solar Together



"Your Tree, Our Future"



LEVI



HGB's Sustainable County Mission.



HWP → Waste Partnership.



RCCF → Further collaboration for regional climate action.



Sustainable Procurement



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- **Stevenage Level**



In 2022, Stevenage recorded its lowest historical emissions.



Emissions consistently decreasing across all sectors since 2005.



Transport, the main emitting sector.



SBC's emissions have dropped by 39%. 61% reduction expected when switching to HVO.

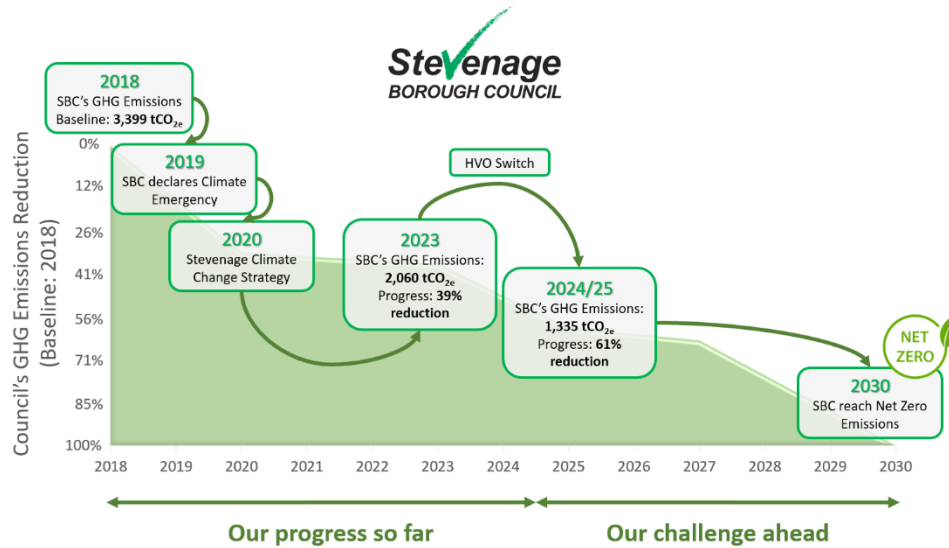


Stevenage Climate Action Plan Tracker is now online → Over 50 actions across 8 strategic themes.

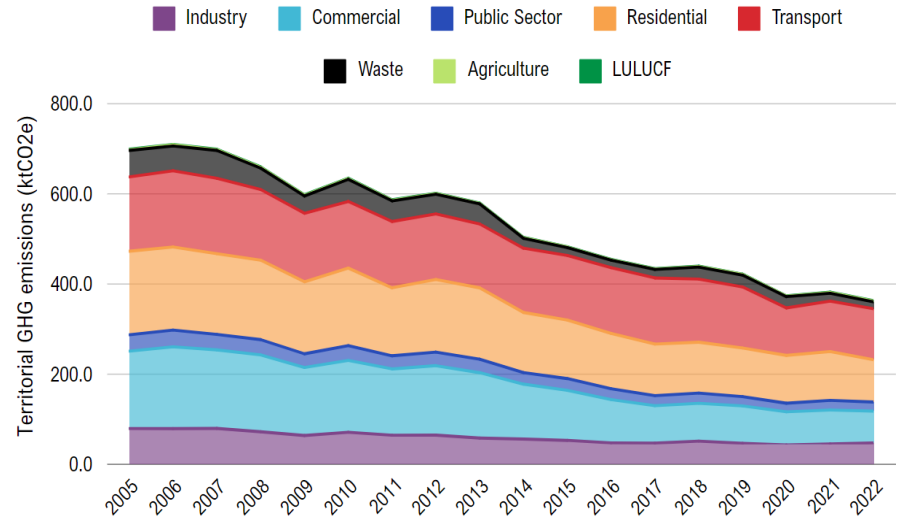


Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- Stevenage Level
- The Council



- The Town



Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- **Stevenage Level: 8 Strategic Themes**

1) Businesses

- Wenta Zero Action Programme.
- UKSPF Sustainable Business Programme.
- Green Business Grant Scheme.
- Local Plan Green Economy Policies.
- Sustainable Procurement & Social Value.



2) Homes

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
 - Warm Homes Social Housing.
- Private Homes Decarbonisation
 - ST, HUG, LAD, WH.
- Housing Development 5★ Approach.
 - Helston House
 - Kenilworth Close.
- Local Plan Partial Review.



**Minimum EPC Band C 8,000
Housing Stock**

Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- **Stevenage Level: 8 Strategic Themes**

3) Waste & Recycling

- HWP Initiatives & Campaigns.
- Recycling Collection & Banks.
- Flat Blocks Recycling Pilot.
- Food Waste Initiatives.
- Solar Panels on SBC Lorries.



60% Recycling Rate by 2035
Zero Waste to Landfill by 2030

4) People

- Staff Climate Champions Group.
- Literacy & Training.
- Climate Change Risk Assessment.



Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- **Stevenage Level: 8 Strategic Themes**

5) Construction & Regeneration

- Regeneration Programme
 - Railway North MSCP
 - Public Services Hub
- Local Plan Partial Review.



6) Transport

- Pathway 1 - Fuel & Fleet
 - HVO Switch
 - Fleet Replacement.
- Cycle Hire Scheme.
 - Cycling Infrastructure.
- EV Charging Infrastructure.
- Staff Travel Survey & Incentives.
- Taxi Licensing Policy.



**SBC Fleet Decarbonisation by
2030**

Climate Change Strategy: 9 Levels

- **Stevenage Level: 8 Strategic Themes**

7) Energy & Water

- Zero Carbon Electricity Tariff.
- Energy Monitoring & Audits.
- Leisure Facilities & MSCP Upgrades.
- Water Management Policies.
- Rainwater Harvesting Projects.



8) Biodiversity

- Tree Planting
 - Fairlane Wood
 - Miyawaki Micro-woods
 - Community Orchards.
- Tree Replacement.
- Tree & Woodlands Strategy
- Green Spaces Strategies.
- **Biodiversity Action Plan (*)**.



**4,000 Trees Planted by 2030.
19% Town's Tree Canopy.**

(*) For approval.

Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan

Background

- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty on LAs to have regard, so far as is consistent within its functions, to conserving, restoring or enhancing biodiversity.
- Stevenage currently remains the only district / borough in Hertfordshire to have a BAP.
- 34 Local Wildlife Sites have been designated in Stevenage, most of which are Ancient Woodlands.
- Stevenage currently has the most local wildlife sites in favourable condition within Hertfordshire.

Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan

STEVENAGE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:
A Wilder Stevenage
2024-2028



- 63 actions across 5 habitat types.
 - Grassland, Woodland, Wetland, Ancient Hedgerows, and Neighbourhood Nature.
- Focus on, but not limited to, SBC estate.
- Realistic and achievable but ambitious within the capacity of SBC and partners.
- Compatible with and complement the HCCSP BAP.
- Accessible, in language terms, to the wider community.
- Provides evidence of need to support funding bids to assist with delivery.
- Identify priorities based on protecting sites already important to wildlife and/or identifying sites that could lose potential for wildlife if works are not delivered within the next 5-6 years.

Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan

Funding / Delivery

Previously:

- £25k from So Stevenage Partnership
- £50k from Heritage Lottery Fund
- £34k from Environment Agency
- LCB

Future Opportunities:

- Planning Gain
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Landfill Communities Fund
- National Lottery Funds
- Climate Change Community Fund

Delivery supported by:

- Green Space Volunteers
- Specialist contractors
- Partnership with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

- In-house Team
- Officer Working Parties

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- **Local Engagement**



Local community engagement remained a key focus: engagement with various stakeholders at events and delivery of presentations.



Provision of educational resources (Environmental Days Calendar, Sustainable Event Handbook).



CCCF approved 8 projects (2023/24) supporting benefits:

- Reduction of waste, improved biodiversity, water conservation, climate adaptation, tree planting.



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- Local Engagement



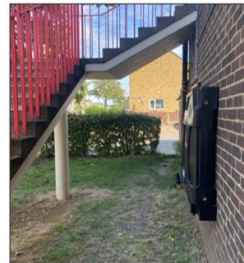
Peartree Rainwater Collection Pilot

The Peartree Rainwater Collection Pilot, led by the Shephall Resident's Group and endorsed by Councillor Rob Broom of Shephall, sought funding to enhance the front area of Peartree Shops with additional shrubs and flowers, and to install a rainwater collection system. This system is designed to harvest sufficient water for the maintenance of these flowerbeds.

The project received approval in October 2023 and was allocated a total of £2,000. This funding covered the costs of a structural engineer evaluation, raw materials, plants, and installation.

The installation of the 200-litre capacity water butt promotes water conservation in the area, reducing the dependency on tap water from nearby shops for watering the flowerbeds. Should the project prove beneficial and replicable in the long term, it may be possible to install similar measures in other neighbourhood centres.

The project was successfully completed in August 2024. Photographs of the installation are available for viewing on the right.



Coventry Close Community Garden

The Coventry Close Community Garden project, led by the community group Waste Not Want Not (WNNW) and championed by Cllr. Sandra Barr of St Nicholas, applied for £600 from the CCCF to create a community garden within an underutilised green space situated between residential properties. The initiative also aimed to establish a local gardening group to promote social interaction.

The project received approval in October 2023, with work commencing shortly after the allocation of funds. WNNW, in collaboration with local residents, transformed the 16x14 metre area by planting 13 fruiting and flowering bushes, clustered perennials and spring flowering bulbs. This effort created a more diverse habitat for birds and insects, particularly pollinators. The plant species were chosen for their low maintenance requirements and resilience to future climatic changes.

The project also included the installation of raised vegetable beds, enhancing the community's ability to grow their own produce. Additionally, locally crafted wooden benches, made from donated wood, were installed to provide an outdoor social space for residents.

Soil health in the area was also improved with the addition of peat-free compost, soil conditioner and wood chip.

The project was completed in spring 2024. Before and after photographs are available for viewing to the right and below.

Before



After



**Thanks for your attention.
Any questions?**

