

SURREY CLIMATE COMMISSION



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Annual Report 2025 - 2026

April 2026



Vision

- A Surrey that strives to put the wellbeing of people and the planet at the heart of all we do, recognising the interconnectedness of Surrey with the rest of the world.



Our Aims

- Bringing leadership and coordination to help Surrey become a place where people and nature thrive together.
- Bridging the gap between national ambition and local action — connecting communities, sharing best practice, sparking debate, and influencing policy



We do this by connecting communities and organisations, spreading good practice, feeding back evidence, facilitating debate and influencing policy.

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Our activity builds on four key pillars:



Championing and
empowering communities



Driving practical projects to
achieve warmer, greener
homes that are cheaper to run



Thought-leadership



Running campaigns to
tackle barriers to action,
and influence policy

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Achievements in 2025/26

Strategy Workshop: September 2025

Aim:

To co-design a strategy to develop and grow Surrey Climate Commission's campaign activity to tackle barriers and influence policy. This was a follow-on from the 'What's Stopping Us Stop Climate Change' work.

Participants represented local groups, Surrey County Council and the Institute for Sustainability, who were tasked with developing a 'solution' to the barriers that are preventing effective action on climate and nature.

Outcomes:

Initial plans were formed for

- Pledges campaigns
- Together for Tomorrow campaign



Devolution & Pledges Campaigns

- **Webinar** to help community groups understand Surrey's local government re-organisation, and consider opportunities to strengthen action for climate, biodiversity and the wider environment.
- **Responding** to and encouraging responses to consultation on Devolution
- Developing **Our Future Surrey Pledges** and working with community groups to ask Unitary Authority election candidates to sign them.
- Developing **Sustainable Transport Pledges** and encouraging election candidates to support them.

The logo consists of a green L-shaped line to the left of the text "SURREY CLIMATE COMMISSION". The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "SURREY" on the top line, "CLIMATE" on the middle line, and "COMMISSION" on the bottom line.

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Influence

- Established **Expert Panel** with Surrey County Council, to support creation of a climate delivery plan for the two new Unitary Authorities.
- Panel was Co-Chaired by Richard Essex and Angela Druckman. Expert members included Cat Reeby and Chris Hyde.
- The resulting '**Strategic Recommendations for Climate Action**' were endorsed by Surrey County Council's Cabinet on 21st April 2026.

CO

s identified many barriers and potential solutions that respondents would like to see, w
rectly improve neighbourhoods, resident livelihoods, health and the economy. These insights
below summarises recommendations for Local Authority action towards these 8 goals.

ty of options for Local Authority action

Rationale	Options for LA Action	Potential KPIs (to 2030 or beyond)	Imp
Unlock carbon reduction, climate resilience and adaptation - reducing local barriers to sustainable living.	Ensure integration of climate priorities in strategic planning, planning, infrastructure development and place making programmes.	11,000 low energy, low bill, new homes 500MW local renewable energy Recycling rates from 54% to 62% £1bn low carbon investment vehicle	Clear more conni Low invest boost
Bring about the conditions needed to enable residents to reduce carbon emissions locally as local authorities are unable to deliver all the change needed.	Scale up engagement, capacity building, partnerships and co-design to accelerate community-led climate change projects.	Carbon footprint of residents to below 10.7t/y 87 Parishes and 500 schools with carbon reduction plans A boost in volunteers taking climate action. 32% less residual waste	Empe creat impr which Incre partic
Support Health equity in all Policies: enable co design and delivery to increase value for money; improve response to climate threats and increase benefits due to joint action.	Raise awareness and improve evidence of the links between climate change and health and increase joint delivery under the Health and Well Being Strategy.	Climate literacy and research for practitioners Environment Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Health and climate in all policies and specifically in planning Targeted health - climate delivery programme	Imprc health Poter health active
Harness the carbon absorbing power of land to reduce the impact of emissions.	Develop the tools, frameworks, and partnerships needed to improve the management of public and private land. Integrate into the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	1,2M trees additional trees Habitat restoration including creation of wetland, unimproved grassland or woodland. 123% increase in carbon removal by land	Stabil declit floodi reduct

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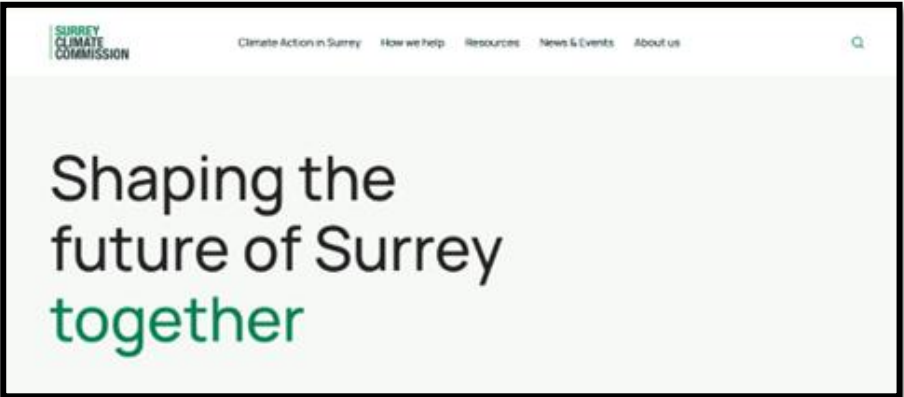
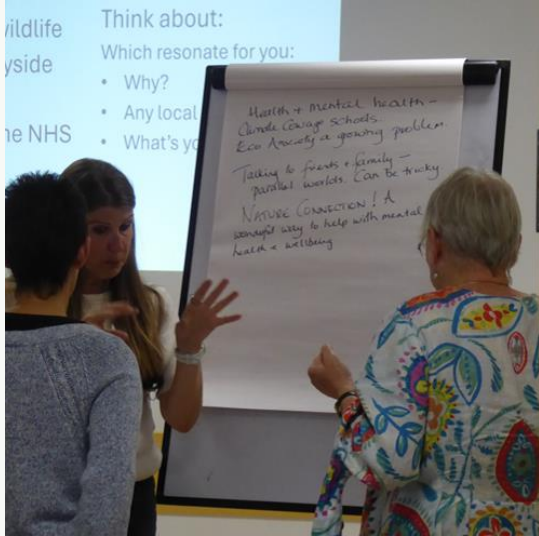
Communications and Engagement

The Commission's network is growing:

- **302** community organisations
- **467** individuals from NGOs, faith and other community organisations including Parish and Town Councils.
- **146** individuals from local government, academic institutions, local and national businesses, government and other non-3rd Sector organisations.
- **3** Webinars – Transport, Waste and Circular Economy, and Energy Reduction and Generation. The details and outputs from webinars shared on the Surrey Climate e-Forum.

Communications and Engagement

- 5 Surrey Talks Climate sessions: 3 workshops and 2 webinars for 46 people representing 33 groups
- Monthly **Newsletters** and occasional 'News Flashes' to update over **500** subscribers on Climate related issues in Surrey and beyond.
- Community organisations encouraged to share information and engage with others via the **E-forum**.
- New **Website** which is clearer, easier to use and Low Carbon.



Communications and Engagement

- **Together for Tomorrow:** communications and education campaign is being developed to focus on large membership groups such as faith groups and U3A.
- **Collaborative Business Project:** exploring the impact of businesses on climate change as well as mitigation preparedness and how larger and smaller businesses can work together. This will develop through 2026



Transport

Hosted 'Strengthening Sustainable Transport in Surrey' webinar which was attended by transport-focused community groups.

- Attendees considered several options for how to improve delivery of sustainable transport. Most popular was sustainable transport promotion to incoming authorities. Sustainable transport alliance for Surrey also gained a lot of support.
- Participants volunteered to form a working group.
- Since the webinar, the working group has met regularly and established a campaign called Healthy Travel Surrey. They have developed a website and a set of sustainable transport pledges that candidates for the Surrey Unitary Authorities will be asked to support.

- Continued to provide input to the surface transport case against expansion of Gatwick Airport.



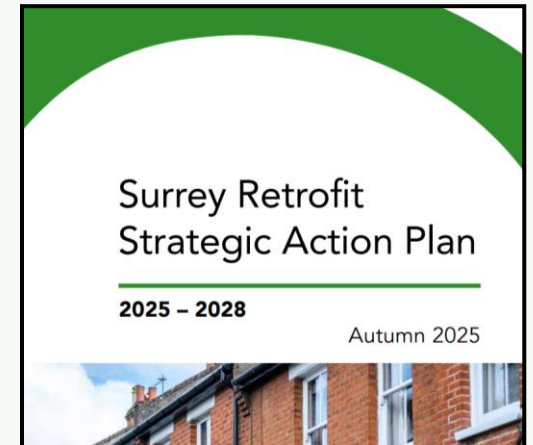
Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan and Local Area Retrofit Accelerator (LARA)

The Surrey Housing Retrofit Strategy has been developed through a series of collaborative workshops and signed off by many local organisations. Led by Surrey County Council, with the Commission being a proactive partner throughout.

Key issues include:

- the need for consistent information and marketing to drive awareness,
- the numbers of people who need training in retrofitting (skills and capacity),
- funding and support to scale up retrofit.

Surrey Climate Commission represents the Community advice sector on the Steering Group and is leading the Home Energy Advice Task Group.



Heat Plus

Delivering the HEAT Plus Service

HEAT Plus has been running since April 2024, working closely with the Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT).

We provide advice, support and home visits to Surrey households, and particularly try to reach more vulnerable residents.

This programme directly helps local Surrey residents to save energy and money. It also gives the Commission up-to-date evidence and insights into the challenges facing local people, and the value of trusted community advice.



Heat Plus

April 2024 to Mar 2026 Achievements are:-

- **160+** in-depth home energy visits
- **90+** talks and events
- **1200+** people engaged with face-to-face advice
- **14** HEAT Plus Energy Champions trained
- **100+** small and large energy saving measures given out
- Directly helped people apply for grants



Funding

During 2025 – 26 the Commission managed to access a range of funding, including

Surrey County Council

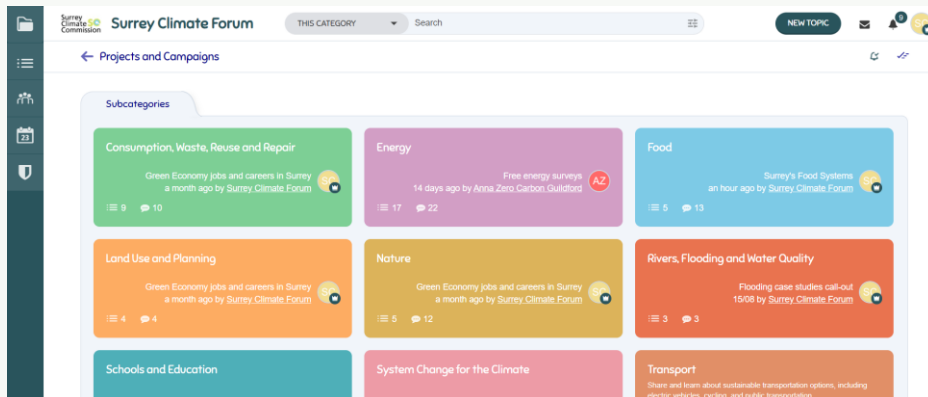
- **Core cost funding** to support the Commission's work to grow the network of community groups and run the annual survey, publish regular e-newsletters, provide the Surrey Climate e-Forum and run webinars.
- **Place Delivery Programme** - funding to promote and support action on the Climate Resilient Schools grants, Community Nature Recovery Grants, One Stop Shop Phase 2, Community Nature Giveaways, and Surrey Community Energy.

Your Fund Surrey

- Website Development funding, thank you to Cllr Catherine Baart.

Surrey County Council Fuel Poverty team

- Funding for the HEAT Plus project (part of SCC SGN Fund)



Funding

During 2025 – 26 the Commission managed to access a range of funding, including

Community Energy Pathways (UK Power Networks)

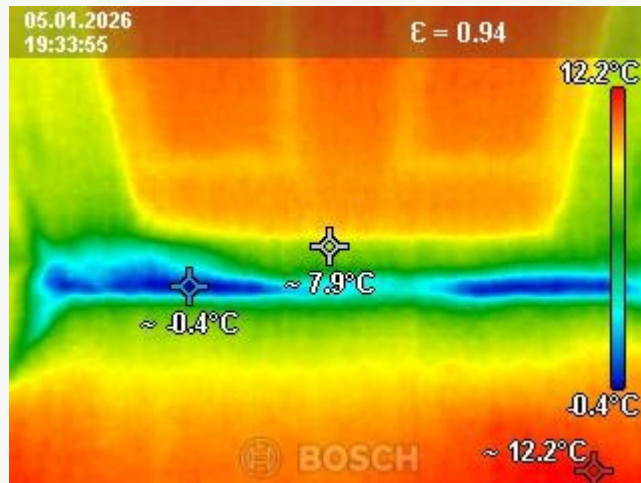
- Ongoing funding for the HEAT Plus programme through the collaboration with Community Energy Pathways

Energy Redress – HEAT & HEAT Plus

- Key partner in this 2-year project, led by Zero Carbon Guildford to support the HEAT Plus and Heat projects

Postcode Lottery

- To support the Commission's ongoing core costs and network.



Financial Report April 2024 to April 2025

- In 2024-25 the Commission's income grew, mainly due to new funding for HEAT Plus
- Careful financial management and increased income has enabled the Commission to increase its reserves and become more financially secure

SURREY CLIMATE COMMISSION CIC INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income	89,162	46,170
Cost of sales	(6,902)	(9,532)
Gross surplus	<u>82,260</u>	<u>36,638</u>
Administrative expenses	(66,156)	(30,529)
Operating surplus	<u>16,104</u>	<u>6,109</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	460	120
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>16,564</u>	<u>6,229</u>
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	(3,168)	(1,256)
Surplus for the financial year	<u><u>13,396</u></u>	<u><u>4,973</u></u>

Staffing

Staff

- The Commission has grown over the last year.
- We now have 6 part-time members of staff (variety of short- and long-term contracts), equivalent to 2 full time positions.

Volunteers

We have recruited 5 volunteers over the last year:-

- Communications (3),
- Community Group Research (2),
- Surrey Talks Climate training (2)

Heat Plus Energy Champions

- 10 freelance energy champions who carry out talks and home visits for the HEAT Plus programme.



Directors

Surrey Climate Commission has 4 Directors

Richard Essex



Richard is Chair and founder of the Surrey Climate Commission. He also works as an Independent Financial Adviser specializing in sustainable investment.

Catriona Reeby



25 years in the energy efficiency sector, specialising in strategy, business and programme development. Passionate about communities and the power of local activists.

Angela Druckman



Passionate about driving systemic environmental change at local, regional and global levels. Angela is also Emerita Professor of Sustainable Consumption & Production at the University of Surrey.

Chris Hyde

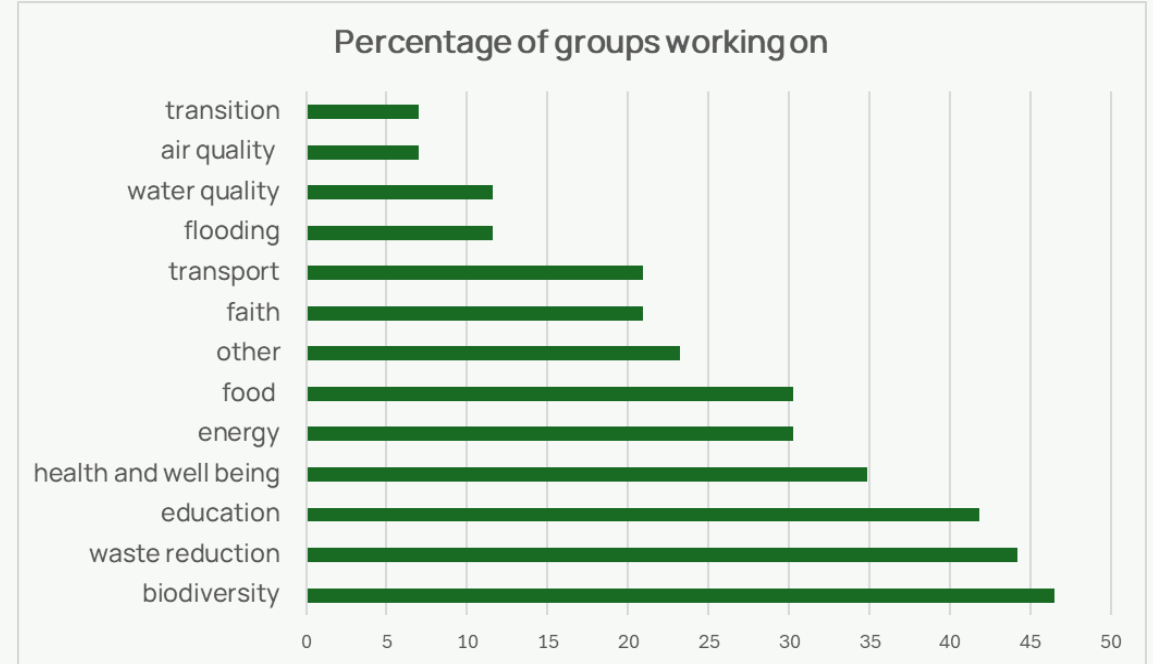
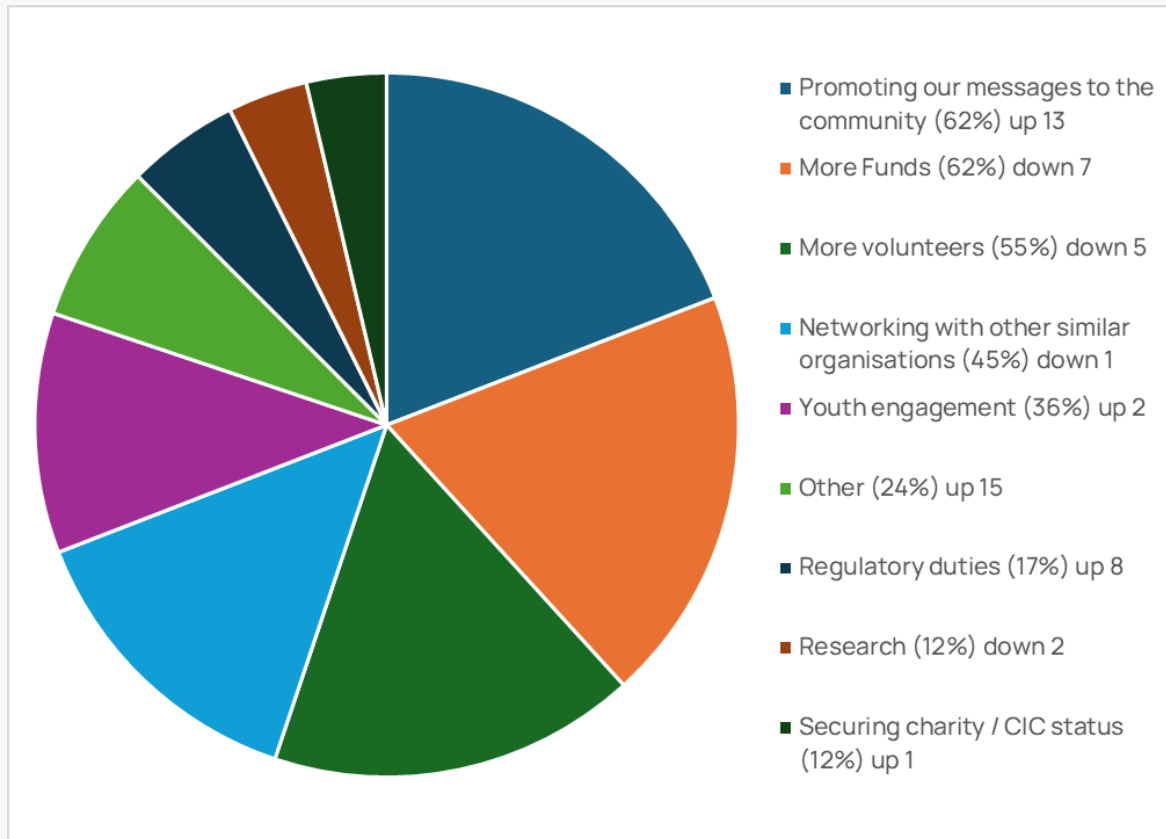


Chris worked 30 years in transport planning, in research, forecasting, transport modelling and strategy, mainly focusing on public transport and active travel.

Annual Survey 2026

Survey of community groups working for nature and climate in Surrey

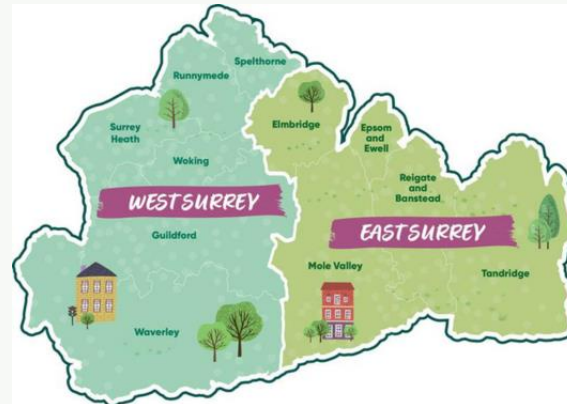
Community group support needs



Objectives 2026 - 2027

Campaign

- Through Our Future Surrey pledge campaign and other opportunities, push for climate and nature recovery to be taken into account in the local government reorganisation, and build relationships with the new unitary authorities.



Influence

- Increase the membership and influence of our new Healthy Travel Surrey collaboration to ensure Surrey's current Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is adopted by the new unitary authorities, and plans are put in place for delivery.



Grow our Network

- Continuing to grow, develop and support our network of community organisations, and use our influence to feedback thought leadership, in order to improve future policy, and shape a more effective climate delivery and nature recovery structure.

Education

- Coordinate our *Together for Tomorrow*, a new campaign to support climate and nature education and engagement with pre-existing groups such as faith groups and U3A.

Practical Action on Energy

Household Energy Efficiency

- Develop new household energy efficiency projects and continue existing projects with a range of partners including UK Power Networks / Community Energy Pathways, and Zero Carbon Guildford (Energy Redress)



- Champion the role of community-delivered advice to households through our position on the Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan interim steering group (LARA), and link with the Together for Tomorrow campaign aimed at Surrey residents.



Renewable Energy

- Grow our activity in support of Surrey-based renewable energy, working with Surrey Community Energy and other partners.



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Developing Surrey Climate Commission

- Strengthen the funding of the Commission.
- Continue to strengthen our volunteer and paid support base to provide all the above.