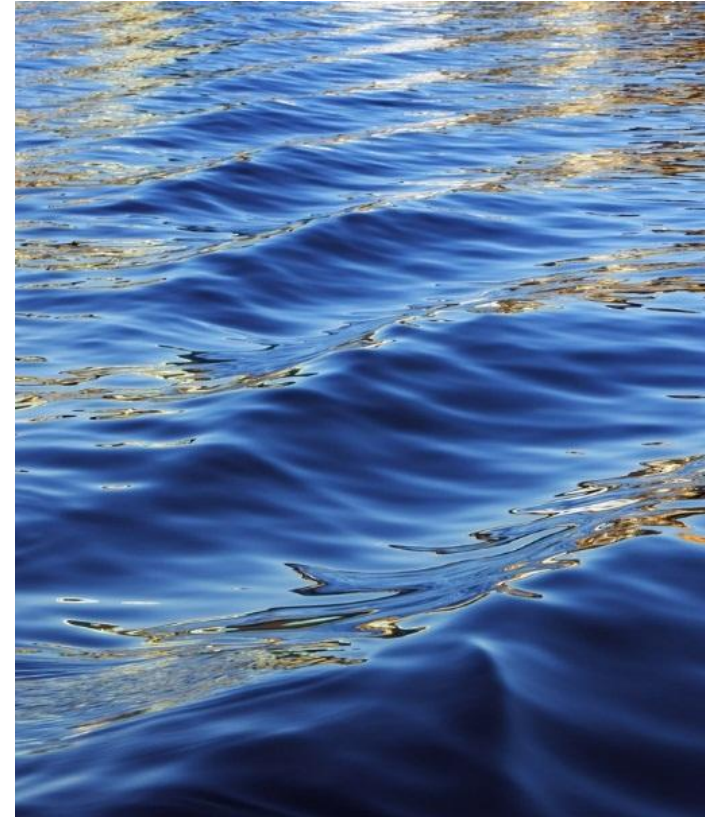


# Annual Report April 2025



## Our Vision

*A Surrey that is a thriving place in which to live and work, in balance with climate and nature.*

## Our Aim

*To support, influence and empower community-led action to tackle climate change and the wider environmental challenges we face.*

## **We do this by:**

- **connecting communities and organisations, spreading good practice, feeding back evidence, facilitating debate and influencing policy.**
- Our activity builds on three key pillars:
  - Championing and empowering communities;
  - Implementation of appropriate projects;
  - Campaigns to tackle barriers and influence policy.

# Our work

Representing and  
supporting the  
network

→ **Greener Futures Board:** The Commission represents views from across the network at the Board, convened by Surrey County Council, and advocates for speedy, evidence-based, properly-resourced climate action.

**Surrey Talks Climate workshops:** training and practical-skills-building on how to engage the “persuadables”: the 77% of Surrey’s population who don’t currently make pro-environmental choices. 17 people trained in 2025 from 12 organisations.

**Annual survey:** Gathering insight into barriers to effective climate action, and intelligence on expertise held across the community sector. Linking community groups together for support and learning. See app 1

**Webinars on hot topics:** Funding opportunities, Surrey’s Climate Strategy review, Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, Food. See app 2

**Annual Climate Gathering and AGM:** Providing networking and learning opportunities, and a forum to feed into the Commission’s work.

# Our work

## Growing the Network



[Surrey Climate Commission monthly newsletter](#): this goes out to 200 community organisations with info on local action, events and funding opportunities. Click here to see newsletters.

[Surrey Climate e-Forum](#): an online space for community groups to share information and pose questions on everything from finding funding, and offering interesting activities for children on stalls, to using trusted messengers to spread the climate message.

## Collaborative Projects



[What's stopping us stopping climate change' project](#): With collaborators including the University of Surrey and ZERO Carbon Guildford, a workshop with a diverse group from Surrey's communities explored mechanisms to transform Surrey into a home of thriving people and nature. Click here to see report. See *app 3*.

# Our work

Energy and  
Domestic  
Retrofit  
Projects



[Surrey Energy Partnership](#): a network to support the transition to fair, equitable and sustainable energy in Surrey. Events held: Housing Retrofit workshop May 23, Housing Retrofit event Feb 24 and Renewable Energy for Surrey Jul 24.

[Local Energy Advice Demonstrator](#). Sep 23 – Mar 25. We are a partner in the DESNZ / SCC funded LEAD project. We held 5 focus groups (Nov 23 – May 24) to inform the home energy advice project, and deliver home energy advice through local talks & events, and in-depth support to Surrey residents via home visits (HEAT Plus). *See appendices 4 and 5.*

[Local Area Retrofit Accelerator](#). We are a stakeholder in the LARA (Local Area Retrofit Accelerator) project alongside commercial and training operators, community groups and the public sector. Led by the MSC Foundation, this aims to scale up retrofit in Surrey.

Thought Leadership



[SyCCom consultation responses](#) e.g. Transport in South East, Gatwick expansion, National Integrated Transport Strategy. *See app 6.*

## Objectives over the next 12 months

- 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 structure.
- Continue to support Surrey's Greener Futures Board, and push for climate and nature recovery to be taken into account in the local government reorganisation (occurring as part of the Government's English Devolution White Paper).
- Continue working on our 'What's Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change' project in conjunction with the University of Surrey. Funding to continue this is being sought from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Future, joint with Surrey County Council, the University of Surrey and Carbon Zero Guildford.
- Develop new projects and continue projects with a range of partners, such as: UK Power Networks and Community Energy South – Leaving no one behind; Community Energy for Surrey; and the LARA (Local Area Retrofit Accelerator) project.
- Strengthen the funding of the Commission and associated projects, e.g. current core funding support from Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust.
- Continue to strengthen our volunteer and paid support base to provide all the above.



# Financial Report Apr 23 – Apr 24

Profit and loss account items for the year ended 30 April 2024

*This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts*

Income	2024, £	2023, £
Sales (income)	46,170	14,899
Other income (interest)	120	200
	<u>46,290</u>	
Outgoings		
Staff costs	25,821	9,968
Purchases	4,262	0
Other costs:		
- Premises / meeting costs	1,553	0
- General administrative costs	1,913	1,199
- Legal and professional costs	1,242	600
- Subcontractor costs	5,270	3,290
	<u>40,061</u>	
Surplus before tax	6,229	42
Tax	1256	0
Surplus	4973	42

## Income:

From April 2023 our main funders were:

Surrey County Council

- Community engagement service £20,000
- Local Energy Advice Demo project £25,400
- Other projects £1,000

Surrey Wildlife Trust

- Donation £2,500

Event income £1,650

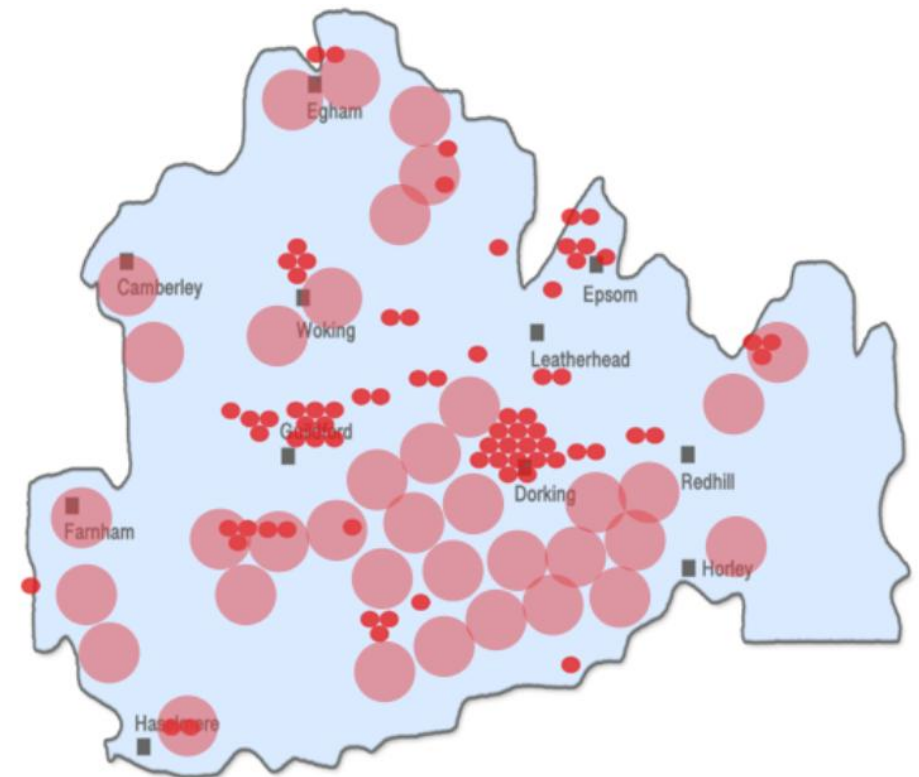


# Supporting our network to engage residents

- We have a strong network with circa 200 local groups
- We provide advice and information, and support engagement and promotion
- We run a range of events, talks and webinars, and networking activities
- The Surrey Climate e-forum is our main information bank, helping community groups share their knowledge.
- We provide training on climate engagement

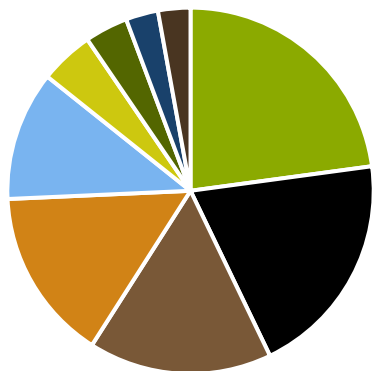
In our network we have:

- ❖ What Next? Waverley Climate Emergency Centre
- ❖ Woking Environment Action
- ❖ Incredible Edible Spelthorne
- ❖ Talking Tree
- ❖ Circular Dorking
- ❖ Oxshott Net Zero
- ❖ Roots for the Future
- ❖ Healthy Travel Weybridge
- ❖ XR Godalming
- ❖ Soroptimist International Woking
- ❖ Churt Parish Council
- ❖ and many other groups



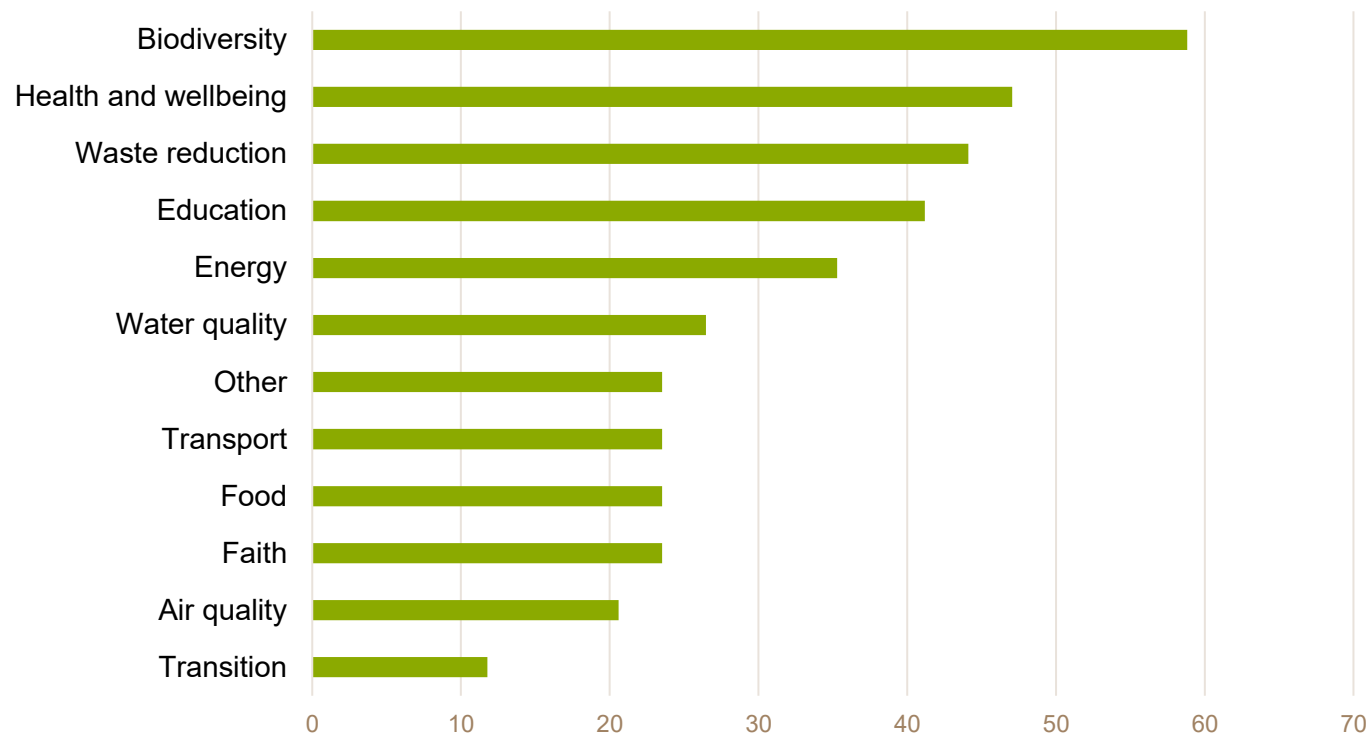
# Survey of community groups working for nature and the climate in Surrey

Community group support needs



- More funds (69%) [up 3]
- More volunteers (60%) [up 6]
- Promoting messages to the wider community (49%) [down 17]
- More networking opportunities (46%) [down 10]
- Youth engagement (34%) [down 4]
- Research (14%) [down 2]
- Securing charity / CIC status (11%) [up 5]
- Regulatory (eg annual accounts and reports) (9%) [new]
- Other (9%) [down 23]

Percentage of groups working on:



## Webinars

Responding to the needs of the network, the Commission hosted a range of webinars for community groups in 2024-25.





## What's Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change 2.0: Transforming Surrey into a Home of Thriving People and Nature

*The Workshop event was a hugely constructive and creative day with contributions from a wide representation of the community which produced valuable insights. Two clear themes emerged:*

- 1. That too many plans and policies are not co-ordinated and not considered in a holistic manner (too many silos).*
- 2. That not enough of the community are truly engaged in the transformative change that is needed.*

[Click here](#) for highlights film of event.  
Thanks to Haeyoung Eun for creating this film.

## Local Energy Advice Demonstrator and HEAT Plus

Funded by UK Power Networks and Surrey County Council

We work closely with Zero Carbon Guildford and partners to provide home energy advice to Surrey residents.

To date (31 March 2025) we have:

- Spoken at 48 local groups and events
- Reached over 630 Surrey residents with advice and information
- Carried out 54 in-depth home visits, of which most are with vulnerable households
- Provided small energy saving measures to over 40 homes

*'I was getting ill because of the cold and would go to the local shops or sit in my car just to keep warm. I am so grateful for the grant and the help; I am not getting ill any more and I actually want to be at home. My home is now a haven.'*





# Insights from the LEAD focus groups



46% of households spent over 10% of their income on energy (fuel poverty)



36% had someone unwell or disabled at home (88% for FG4)



21% lived in rented accommodation.  
50% for FG1



33% had one or more children under 17 living at home



21% did not have gas heating  
(50% for FG4)



46% had someone aged 65 + living at home



8% did not speak English at home. 30% for FG2

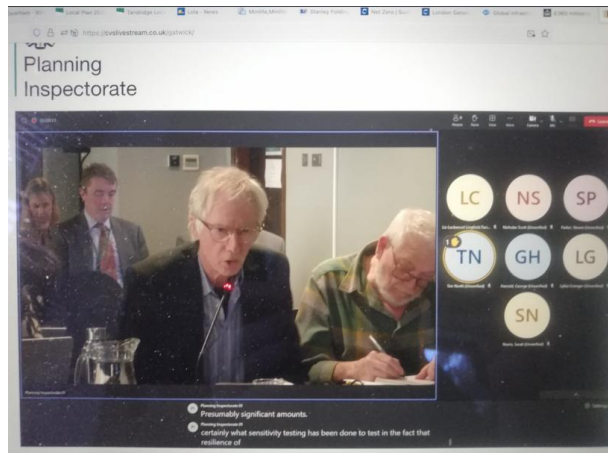


# Thought Leadership

App 6

National Integrated Transport Strategy and TfSE Transport Strategy. In February 2025 the Climate Commission provided its responses to a government call for ideas on an Integrated National Transport Strategy and subsequently accepted an invitation to attend a Department for Transport workshop to contribute its views.

In March 2025, the Climate Commission responded to consultation by Transport for the South East on its draft Transport Strategy. We said that decarbonisation and sustainability were not fully reflected in the package of interventions. We objected to the inclusion of highway capacity enhancement schemes and pointed out that these were at odds with TfSE's decarbonisation priority and the Avoid-Shift-Improve principle. We also noted that climate change adaptation should have been included in the missions.



In 2024, the Commission gave evidence to the hearing into the expansion of Gatwick airport.

Surrey  
Climate   
Commission



## Cat Reeby - Director



- Cat Reeby leads on the Commission's projects
- BEng Mechanical Engineering, MSc Energy & Environmental Management
- 25 years' experience in the energy sector
- Founder and Chair of Surrey Energy Partnership



## Angela Druckman Director

Angela is Emerita Professor of Sustainable Consumption & Production at the University of Surrey.

Through her teaching, research and advisory roles, Angela aims to drive widescale systemic change, to enable everyone to live well now and into the future, within the Earth's ecological limits.

Angela is on Surrey's Greener Futures Board; North Star Transition's Advisory Board; and is also carrying out advisory work for Circular Communities Scotland .

Her multidisciplinary research investigates avenues towards more sustainable lifestyles, taking a holistic, systems-based approach that encompasses supply chain analysis combined with understandings of individual and societal behaviours.

# Chris Hyde Director



Chris's background is as a transport planner, providing research, teaching, and consultancy, for London Transport , the Greater London Authority and as a senior manager at Transport for London.

Chris was on the team that produced Mayor Ken Livingstone's first transport strategy, contributed to planning the Elizabeth Line, and helped develop the first cycle strategy for London.

He has represented London on a European transport group, contributed to setting up GLA Economics, and under Mayor Boris Johnson led the transport team that successfully challenged a third runway at Heathrow.

He is also one of the founders and a Director of the Talking Tree Climate Emergency Centre in Staines.



## Richard Essex Chair and Director

Richard is Chair of the Surrey Climate Commission, which he helped to initiate back in 2019.

He also sits on Surrey's Greener Future Board and is a council member of Surrey Chambers of Commerce.

In his other time Richard is an Independent Financial Adviser, specialising in sustainable and responsible investment.

He has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable investing and is author of 'Invest Feelgood Make a Difference', published in 2014.