

# DRAFT CLIMATE PLAN FOR ADUR & WORTHING

## Introduction

This **Draft Climate Plan** takes the incredible amount of energy and ideas from the Zero 2030 conference and distils them into our aims, ambitions and actions.

The aims are overarching goals – targets we need to strive towards when taking action to reduce Adur and Worthing’s climate and ecological footprint. We need to aim towards zero carbon emissions by 2030 and see a dramatic increase in the number of plants, insects and animals we see in our towns.

We have listed many of the projects, programmes and organisations, all of whom are working hard to create positive changes and improve our environment. Where possible, we want to support and grow these projects, who already deliver on so many of the actions we need.

Our action points are strategic – this means they are not detailed but they provide a direction of travel to achieve our aims. This will allow the variety of groups and organisations to use this action plan when going for funding or building partnerships, seeing what actions their projects fit to or expand upon. By working to this action plan, we can ensure that the variety of projects and programmes move in the same direction, towards zero carbon whilst growing biodiversity.

Adur and Worthing have a wealth of talent, enthusiasm and dedicated people, groups and organisations who understand the urgency and necessity for change. By working together, building new networks and partnerships and promoting projects widely, we can harness this energy and focus results.

Many of the themes and their action points are cross-cutting and related. For example, a project to limit flooding in a particular street, might also have wildlife benefits and in turn benefits to residents, through a more beautiful place to live. This is to be expected and embraced; projects and programmes which deliver multiple benefits for more people are likely more sustainable in the long run.

The solutions for climate change and the ecological crisis cover all levels of governance, from the United Nations and central Government to our individual lives. We must push for top-level change, whilst building local adaptation and mitigation, making the necessary reductions on our collective carbon emissions and ecological footprints. Both strategies are needed, and we will encourage and support all action that achieves these aims.

Adur & Worthing Councils (AWC) have produced their own, internal action plan, [SustainableAW](#). This Climate Action Plan is for everyone in our area – it will take all our efforts to achieve rapid and positive changes. By working together, Adur and Worthing residents, visitors, businesses and services, can forge a greener, cleaner and healthier environment for us to live, work and play.

Michelle Furtado, Worthing Climate Action Network

## ECOLOGY

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to be rich and diverse in wildlife, with connected spaces from the Downs to the sea where people actively encourage and enjoy nature in their gardens, streets, communities and green spaces.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#"><u>Green Tides</u></a>	Volunteer partnership representing 40 Friends and green spaces groups and organisations across Adur & Worthing. The Forum supports and promote the network, whilst working strategically. Currently supporting the development of Wildflower Trail.
<a href="#"><u>Transition Worthing Greenspaces</u></a>	Manage three community growing spaces; The Haven (Homefield Park), The Triangle (Pavilion Road) and May Close Community Allotment. Supporting the community in food growing and wildlife friendly projects.
<a href="#"><u>EPIC Sompting</u></a>	'Enhancing Places, Inspiring Communities' has restored 1km river through Sompting, with hundreds of new trees and kilometres of new hedgerows.
<a href="#"><u>Sussex Wildlife Trust</u></a>	Management of nature reserves, provider of advice and data for landowners and educational activities for the public. Currently working on 'Help Our Kelp', pollinator corridors and flood management.
<a href="#"><u>Arun to Adur Cluster Farm Group</u></a>	Network of farms which work to deliver improved landscapes and farming practices for the benefit of wildlife at landscape-scale. Projects include ecology surveying and research of soil management in farming practice.
<b>RSPB</b>	The <a href="#"><u>Adur Estuary Nature Reserve</u></a> is rare and wild saltmarsh is just a few minutes walk from Shoreham-by-Sea. Access is restricted, but you can enjoy views from nearby footpaths.
<a href="#"><u>Friends of Shoreham Beach Local Nature Reserve</u></a>	In June 2006 Shoreham Beach was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This is due to its vegetated shingle habitat, which is rare worldwide.
<b>Adur &amp; Worthing Councils</b> <a href="#"><u>Biodiversity Programmes</u></a>	AWC is committed to reduce mowing, encouraging more wildflowers and implementing wilding and tree planting programmes.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Create more spaces where wildlife can thrive and connect these spaces across our towns by planting more trees, wildflowers and wild areas, allowing species to move throughout our urban environments more safely.
- Make sure nature-based solutions for climate change are considered by decision-makers when planning for our future.
- Promote the range of benefits associated with gardening for wildlife, encouraging more people to make spaces in their gardens and streets for nature.
- Inspire and educate children and adults in the joy of nature, building communities who care about the wildlife living on our doorsteps.
- Ensure that activities and action is coordinated across Adur and Worthing, to better promote projects, encourage more people to get involved and maximise the opportunities for wildlife to thrive.

We have just experienced a drastic change to our lives, during the coronavirus crisis. For those of us who were not directly affected, we were lucky to benefit from a glorious spring. Many people have discovered a newfound urge to encourage nature, grow their own food and enjoy their local green spaces. Our volunteer groups have reported an uplift in people who want to get involved growing and championing green spaces and our wildlife.

By harnessing this energy and joining our efforts up, we can work towards achieving more wild and natural spaces. Even the humble Dandelion can support many different types of insects and provide ‘puddles of sunshine’ for us on concrete pavements. We can stop the disappearance of species from our urban environments and create places buzzing with lots of little lives.

In 2030 we want to see a return of many of our beloved species into our gardens and parks, with the enjoyment of watching and experiencing our living world, on our doorsteps and our wide environment, shared by children and adults alike.

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Our aim is that Adur and Worthing is able to cope with changes to our weather systems, including hotter, drier summers, with predicted heatwaves, droughts, and wetter winters, with greater risks of flooding.

What is already happening locally:

<b>Tarring Flood Group</b>	Residents group working to prevent surface area flood damage to property and infrastructure. Multiple projects include ‘Adopt A Drain’ and the development of rain gardens, to slow excess rainfall.
<b>Tree planting projects</b>	Various groups and organisations are working to plant more trees across Adur and Worthing, including Green Tides members, TCV, Tree Action UK and AWC. Trees slow rainfall through the canopy, help drainage, absorb water, sequester carbon and provide urban cooling.
<a href="#"><u>Eco Open Houses</u></a>	Open houses trail across Adur and Worthing, showcasing home improvements that reduce carbon emissions and create resilience for drought or flooding events.
<a href="#"><u>Shoreham Port sea defence upgrades</u></a>	Major improvements to the sea defences to protect the port infrastructure from sea level rise.
<b>Coronavirus Mutual Aid Groups</b>	During the Covid crisis, neighbourhood groups in <a href="#"><u>Worthing</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Shoreham</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Southwick and Fishersgate</u></a> , organically formed to ensure the most vulnerable people in their communities were cared for.
<a href="#"><u>EPIC Sompting</u></a>	The restoration of 1km of river includes natural flood management systems, ensuring rainwater is slowed across a landscape, creating important habitat and protecting water sources from pollution.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Work with AWC and other partners to support public and private realm interventions that reduce the impact of heating and flooding, for example small-scale SUDS around our towns that can be used as learning opportunities.
- Support existing groups and projects to widen their reach and impact and share good practice, building upon [SustainableAW](#) magazine and using social media and local networks to widen our scope.
- Develop a ‘Climate Resilience Fund’ for local community organisations to access, enabling their work to become sustainable by covering some core cost funding annually.
- Educate and empower our community to take action in their individual lives and understand the impact that our choices make on the environment.
- Build upon the local mutual aid networks to create neighbourhood resilience, helping neighbours to watch out for vulnerable members of their communities, sharing resources and create caring communities.

We build resilience by forming networks and partnerships, be that with our friends, neighbours or through collaborations with other organisations. In our towns and cities, climate resilience will mean protecting the ability of our services to run during extreme weather events, most likely drought or flooding in our area. Resilience will also mean creating local food security and ensuring our residents have access to resources during this transition, the skills to repair and share effectively.

Already we have a wealth of examples where resilience is being delivered, through rain gardens and household improvements, to natural flood management and emergency planning for essential services. The groups and networks which already exist are themselves great examples of community collaborations, ideas in action and inspiring stories. As we expand local digital capacity, we can innovate working practices and rethink our public realm.

In 2030 our vision is that Adur and Worthing have happy, healthy residents, who can feel confident that their water, food and energy supplies will continue to work during challenging times. Our towns will be places where businesses and visitors generate a vibrant local economy, with buildings, streets and estates prepared for predicted shifts to our weather and coastline.

## CARBON REDUCTION

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to have reduced its carbon emissions to zero; with homes and businesses using renewable technologies for heating and energy, people choosing active travel and waste now used within a circular economy.

What is already happening locally:

<b>Adur &amp; Worthing Councils</b>	The council has declared a Climate Emergency and is fully committed to <a href="#">reducing their carbon emissions</a> across their estate and services. It has taken the UK 100 Cities Pledge and developed a <a href="#">Carbon Neutral Plan</a> .
<b><a href="#">SCATTER</a> analysis</b>	The use of this tool by the council, has provided an analysis of what carbon reduction measures as required to achieve zero carbon by 2050. It plots various emission reductions across different areas to see how carbon can be reduced.

<a href="#">Eco Open Houses</a>	Open houses trail across Adur and Worthing, showcasing home improvements that reduce carbon emissions and create resilience for drought or flooding events.
<a href="#">Care Without Carbon</a>	Worthing Hospitals are involved in the NHS scheme to reduce carbon emissions across the health estates.
<a href="#">FingerPrints</a> <b>not</b> <a href="#">Footprints</a>	Group of young people at Chatsmore Catholic High School (now Oscar Romero Catholic High School) who actively challenge the excessive use of carbon and promote sustainability.
<a href="#">Local Energy Advice Partnership</a>	LEAP offers a service to householders across Adur and Worthing to reduce their energy use, carbon emissions and energy bills.
<a href="#">Sustainable Business Partnership</a>	Offers energy audits and grants to businesses to reduce energy use and carbon emissions

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Educate and promote widely the importance of understanding our own personal, household and organisational carbon footprint, including understanding how carbon is embedded in the things we buy and use, and what steps we can take to reduce these footprints.
- Support ecological projects that help sequester carbon, such as changing farming practices, planting trees, enhancing chalk grassland and saltmarsh, or returning kelp forests to our shores.
- Build on the Eco Open Houses project and develop an Adur and Worthing network of case studies, showing the costs and reductions in energy bills and carbon which can be achieved by households and business.
- Break the chains of fossil fuel use and investment by transforming our energy supplies, reducing energy demand, lobbying for divestment, and consuming more wisely.
- Work with communities and people who need extra support to improve their homes, making them warm and reducing their energy bills.
- Support the public, business and industrial sectors to reduce carbon through sharing good practice, promoting funding opportunities and developing local case studies

Reducing carbon is another theme which links to many others. Everything we do, use and throwaway has a carbon footprint. The main source of carbon generated in Adur and Worthing comes from our household energy use, when we cook, heat, light our homes and entertain ourselves. This use also applies to business and industrial buildings, adding to our areas overall carbon footprint. Transport and waste make up the remaining bulk of emissions.

We can reduce our energy demand by insulating our homes and choosing efficient appliances and goods. We can choose to install renewable technologies or use green energy suppliers, walk and cycle more, work from home and reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. We can eat local and seasonal food produce, from farms that respect soils and nature. We can learn to recognise casual consumption, choosing to enjoy community, culture and experiences over fast fashion, short-lived gadgets or the latest fads. All these choices will reduce our carbon load and when taken together will make significant reductions.

Our aim by 2030 is to have communities, organisations and businesses who understand and be actively reducing their carbon footprints towards net zero. We will have secured investment and built networks and partnerships to support our areas ambitions.

## ENERGY

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to be reduce energy demands from fossil fuel based sources through energy efficiency and improved insulation, powered by affordable, renewable energy, minimising carbon emissions and having efficient, futureproofed infrastructure to keep our towns running.

What is already happening locally:

<b>Transition Town Worthing – <a href="#">Energy Shop</a></b>	The Energy Shop helps people reduce their energy costs by finding the cheapest available prices and make household improvements to reduce energy loss and wastage.
<b>Shoreham Port</b>	Shoreham Port is one of eleven ports to hold Eco Port status, with <a href="#">two 100 kW wind turbines</a> and a 2.2 MW PV array.
<b>Brighton Energy Cooperative (BEC) and <a href="#">South Downs Leisure</a></b>	100kWp system installed at Splashpoint Leisure Centre with additional panels installed at Worthing Leisure Centre. BEC are a community-owned energy company.
<b>Brighton and Hove Energy Cooperative (BHESCO) – <a href="#">Solar for Schools</a></b>	Eight schools across Sussex have benefited from the installation of solar pv panels on site, providing considerably reduced costs for energy and once the upfront costs are repaid, free energy for the lifetime of the panels.
<b><a href="#">Local Energy Advice Partnership</a></b>	LEAP provides free energy advice to reduce energy wastage for low income families across Sussex to help tackle fuel poverty.
<b>West Sussex County Council's <a href="#">Solar Schools Programme</a></b>	West Sussex have installed solar photovoltaic arrays on 17 schools in Adur and Worthing totalling 1312kWp.
<b>Adur &amp; Worthing Councils</b>	The councils have installed solar PV on their two main civic buildings: reducing carbon emissions and producing renewable energy to power council service delivery.
<b><a href="#">Sustainable Business Partnership</a></b>	Offers energy audits and grants to businesses to reduce energy use and carbon emissions
<b><a href="#">Solar Together programme</a></b>	The councils are working with LAs across East and West Sussex to introduce a bulk buying, high quality, offer to residents to buy quality assured, discount price solar photovoltaic systems and battery storage for their homes

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Expand the Solar Schools programme, ensuring all local schools benefit from significant short-term reductions in energy costs, with free longer-term energy and using the installations as learning opportunities for their pupils and parents.
- Build capacity through training and networking for local builders and boiler installers to effectively support the installation of non-gas heating and cooking options, and promoting government financial incentives for these systems.
- Widely promote Government grants and the benefits of installing renewable energy technologies, home insulation and the savings gained, aiming to monitor progress as installations are delivered.
- Significantly expand renewable energy generation throughout Adur and Worthing

- Reduce fossil fuel energy use through insulation, energy efficiency and efficient services programmes for all sectors

How we heat, light, cook and use technology, both at work and home, must change significantly to meet our commitments under the Paris Agreement. We need to move away from energy that comes from fossil fuels, such as oil and gas, to using solar, wind and heat from the air or ground.

There are several financial initiatives to support the change to these systems for domestic and non-domestic energy use. We need to make more of these and build local capacity, creating jobs to fulfil our needs. This presents great opportunities for our towns by creating skilled jobs, reducing energy costs for everyone and bringing investment. We need to manage energy capacity locally and improve community energy storage.

By 2030 our energy must be delivered to homes and businesses without the use of fossil fuels.

## WATER

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to have great quality rivers and seas, with water captured and used by homes and business and places protected from flooding or drought.

What is already happening locally:

<b>Southern Water</b>	Utility company who undertakes outreach work with communities to deliver water saving advice, free <a href="#">home visits</a> for water efficient use, environmental management projects and improving water quality.
<a href="#">Sussex Flow Initiative</a>	Multi-partner project working with landowners, local communities and others to naturally slow down and store flood water in the landscape through advocacy and delivery.
<a href="#">Help Our Kelp</a>	Large-scale exclusion zone for trawlers offshore, with the intention to rewild large areas of kelp forest, a species of seaweed. The project will increase wildlife, improve water quality and help absorb carbon as the restored kelp forests grow. Currently awaiting government approval of a Byelaw for a trawler exclusion zone.
<a href="#">Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust</a>	From small scale habitat enhancements to engineering new channels, water quality improvements to natural flood management the range of project work is diverse. The focus is to make rivers better in a sustainable and cost-effective way and enable individuals and communities to get more involved.
<a href="#">Worthing Bathing Water Enhancement Project</a>	Collaboration between Southern Water, Worthing Borough Council, WSCC, Environment Agency and local residents to improve bathing water quality for Worthing Beach by reducing pollution from missed connections, animal faeces on beaches, and providing extra sewer maintenance and cleansing.
<a href="#">Marine Conservation Society Big Beach Clean</a>	Annual event which feeds into national data collection and reports on the cleanliness of our beaches.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs), visibly throughout Adur and Worthing, using these as educational tools and encouraging greater take up by homeowners and business.
- Encourage greater uptake of water saving measures through promoting more widely the activities undertaken by Eco Open Houses participants and Southern Water customer programmes.
- Reduce the amount of waste and rubbish which enters our streams, rivers and the sea by encouraging active participation of regular litter picks and making dropping rubbish or discharging waste to water sources unacceptable.
- Support homes and businesses in the collection of rainwater, for use in gardens and green spaces, or in the longer term to supplement water use within buildings.
- Monitor and evaluate water quality in rivers and our seas by developing citizen science projects and supporting annual monitoring beach cleans.

We often take water for granted; we turn on the tap and out it comes. Increasingly, our water supplies will be affected by drought conditions during summer periods and flooding will be exacerbated during the winter months. Our towns are identified as being within ‘water stressed’ areas. To protect ourselves against extreme weather events, we need to look carefully at our public spaces, putting in measures to reduce flood risks and capturing water to use in our gardens. These measures might take the form of rain gardens, sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) or water butts.

The quality of our water will be improved by less discharge into water supplies from industrial processes or from farms, and a reduction in the amount of litter reaching our rivers and seas. We can all play our part in this by taking rubbish home or joining any number of the litter picks that already take place across our area.

In 2030 we need to be collecting and storing water, reducing the flow into our drains by slowing rainfall through our environments and keeping our waters clean and clear. Our rivers and sea will be of good quality, supporting wildlife and providing beautiful places for the enjoyment of residents, visitors and wildlife.

## TRANSPORT

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to be a place where people feel safe and secure to walk or cycle, use zero emission public transport or car share options and minimise the amount of traffic and pollution in our towns and its associated carbon emissions.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#"><u>Shoreham By Cycle</u></a>	Campaigning to improve cycling provision and conditions in and around Shoreham. They want cycling to be easy and enjoyable and the first choice for travel around the area.
<a href="#"><u>Worthing Cycle Forum</u></a>	Volunteer network campaigning for better cycling provision in and around Worthing. They have been instrumental in working with AWC to develop the Local Walking & Cycling Plan, to bring in investment to deliver the necessary improvements.
<a href="#"><u>Worthing Hospital Park &amp; Ride</u></a>	As part of their ‘Green Travel Plan’, Western Sussex Hospitals Trust have introduced a free Park & Ride service between their hospital sites. This



	has significantly reduced the number of vehicles travelling between sites and made more parking available on sites for patients.
<a href="#">TTW Transport Group</a>	This group has tackled air quality and promoted the use of public transport, cycling and walking.
<a href="#">Sussex EV's</a>	Community for Electric Vehicle (EV) owners and those with an interest in renewable technologies. The group meets regularly and supports those who want to take the step to EV's.
<a href="#">AREA</a>	Adur Residents Environmental Action group monitor air pollution and provides information about the effects of this on our health.
<a href="#">Easit Adur &amp; Worthing</a>	Discounted travel scheme for Adur & Worthing Council staff to access reduced bus and train fare, and discounted bicycles.
<a href="#">Local Cycling &amp; Walking Infrastructure Plan</a>	The council produced this Plan which defines cycling and walking infrastructure needs, providing a guide for investment and connectivity across the area. Developed through the Adur and Worthing Walking and Cycling Action Group.
<b>WSSC led EV network</b>	A new extensive, accessible, renewable powered EV charging network is planned for the county, first installations expected early 2021.
<a href="#">Donkey Bikes</a>	Highly successful bike sharing scheme operating in Worthing
<a href="#">Ricardo</a>	Engineering firm based in Adur working on hybrid and fully electric vehicle development
<a href="#">Durrington Community Cycle Project C.I.C</a>	A wholly charitable organisation set up to provide and maintain a fully equipped cycle workshop for free use by the community with the support of volunteer skilled mechanics.

#### What Needs to Happen Next:

- Support the expansion of high quality, well used cycle infrastructure for Adur & Worthing enabling a preferred choice of cycling over car use especially for shorter journeys across Adur and Worthing.
- Build partnerships between transport providers and community organisations to promote public transport whilst they move towards zero-carbon targets, for example by having all buses running fully electric.
- Enable mass bicycle events, cycle training for adults and children, walking trains to school, Schools Streets and active travel plans for businesses and organisations.
- Support the monitoring of air pollution and idling by community organisations, widely promoting the results, the effects of air pollution on health and the benefits of changing our behaviours.
- Seek to reduce the numbers of cars needed by communities, encouraging the development of car sharing schemes, such as car clubs or lift share schemes for businesses, explore technology and innovation to drive uptake and ease of access.

Transport which uses fossil fuels, petrol or diesel cars, vans and lorries, is the third largest source of carbon emissions in Adur and Worthing. It also causes air pollution, which is now being linked to more and more physical health conditions and may also impact mental health. By moving away from transport fuelled by fossil fuels, we will be gaining many benefits throughout our towns.

During the coronavirus crisis we saw a huge increase in the number of people able to work from home, with many reporting a better work-life balance because of it. People also dusted off their bikes and used the empty streets to travel more efficiently, improving their health and taking more interest in

their local environments. The Government wants there to be a renaissance of cycling across the country and has provided grants to all councils to implement better cycling infrastructure. If we can support this transition, encouraging confidence in those who haven't cycled in a long time (often due to the amount of traffic encountered on roads), our communities will gain through improved health, air quality and nicer environments.

In 2030 we want most people to choose walking and cycling for short journeys and to get into our towns. Adur and Worthing has shifted largely to electric vehicles, with good supporting infrastructure through a network of accessible charging points, sharing car schemes and with joined up public transport choices.

### SHARED LEADERSHIP & ECONOMY

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to support a thriving local economy, supporting entrepreneurs and large businesses who work together in making our towns are sustainable and attractive places to live and work, maximising the benefits of a green recovery.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#"><u>Sustainable Business Partnership</u></a>	This not-for-profit Community Interest Company works with businesses, social enterprises and public sector organisations to help them reduce costs and environmental impact through improving resource efficiency, as well as those in the environmental and low carbon sectors to help them develop their businesses and create a local, low-carbon economy.
<a href="#"><u>Inside Magazines</u></a>	Local publications supporting community organisations and local business in and around Worthing. Liana, who manages these, is undertaking a sustainability Masters degree and is fully committed to supporting local sustainability efforts.
<a href="#"><u>Here &amp; Now Magazine</u></a>	Monthly magazine focussing on the creative communities in and around Worthing. There is a regular column featuring sustainability projects written by Transition Town Worthing.
<a href="#"><u>FingerPrints not Footprints</u></a>	This group is building links with local businesses through parents' networks to encourage sustainable activity outside of their school.
<a href="#"><u>Proto Restaurant Group</u></a>	This group has woven sustainability into its business plan, with an emphasis on choosing locally produced, high-quality food, reducing waste and recycling as much as possible, and supporting their staff in reaching work by active travel options.
<a href="#"><u>A Greener Alternative</u></a>	Local specialist in renewable heating technologies.
<a href="#"><u>Adur &amp; Worthing Climate Assembly</u></a>	The councils are delivering a Climate Assembly over the autumn of 2020 giving local residents the opportunity to engage with the challenge of the climate emergency and input their thoughts on what we can all do to address climate change.
<a href="#"><u>SustainableAW Magazine</u></a>	Created by the councils to spotlight local activity on the Climate Emergency and ecological crisis and promote greater engagement across all sectors and communities.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Ensure we look after the health and prosperity of all our communities as we address the climate challenge
- Develop a coalition of businesses who share sustainability values and ambitions, support them in the delivery and sharing of advice and projects, exploring the potential for a circular economy.
- Lobby and apply for strategic funding through the Local Economic Partnership to support companies and organisations which enable sustainable economic growth and build this into economic decision-making.
- Build a local metric which looks beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to incorporate the health, happiness and wellbeing of local residents and employees, using this to see the wider value of sustainable action and ecological improvements.
- Educate and empower businesses to look beyond perpetual growth, exploring new economic models, such as circular economies and degrowth.
- Build and promote local entrepreneurs who deliver bespoke and unique businesses and services, encouraging local economic activity through local loyalty schemes or currencies.
- Use the coronavirus crisis to support a green recovery, helping businesses to align their practices and services in ways which grow economic activity without harming our environment.

Often the work we do defines a large part of our how we see ourselves, creating a sense of purpose and self-worth. When people find themselves out of work, this contribution to society is diminished and can impact greatly upon the persons' mental health. Moving Adur and Worthing towards the ambitions defined in this action plan will mean work, a lot of work. We can create significant employment locally, upskilling people and leading a green recovery.

Our existing businesses and enterprises will need to collaborate and partner, viewing waste as resources, using their combined purchasing powers and innovating through new networks. Thriving local economies are those where the money generated, remains local, being spent in our unique shops and services and limiting the amount disappearing into larger, global corporations.

We also need to recognise that perpetual growth on a finite planet is impossible. Thriving local economies circulate money within themselves, providing employees with opportunities outside of work, for example through local volunteering, or supporting social aims beyond solely profit margins. Increasingly, companies are ensuring their workforce wellbeing and seeking to enrich and support the communities where they are established.

In 2030 we see Adur and Worthing having a wide range of businesses and entrepreneurs who work collaboratively to create sustainable economic activity. Waste is viewed as resources for others, the energy needed to work comes from renewable sources and companies see employee wellbeing as integral to their success.

## **WASTE**

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to have maximised the amount of recycling collected, with most people able to compost food waste and choosing to reduce, repair, reuse and recycle their waste.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#">West Sussex Waste Partnership</a>	Council partnership to ensure the correct waste disposal, recycling and waste prevention across West Sussex. Their work includes an outreach volunteer team who attend community events to educate the public.
<a href="#">Plastic Free Worthing</a>	Campaign and practical action group who takes action to prevent pointless plastic pollution through education and beach cleans.
<a href="#">Refill Worthing</a> <a href="#">Refill Shoreham</a> <a href="#">Refill Lancing</a>	Part of the national <a href="#">Refill</a> scheme, the local network encourages businesses and organisations to become Refill Stations, providing free refill for reusable flasks and bottles.
<a href="#">Recycling in Lancing</a>	Long established organisation which works to recycle a multitude of items not normally collected by recycling services. It turns the collections into funds for local community groups.
<a href="#">Repair Café</a>	Another successful Transition Town Worthing project, with volunteers regularly taking items for repair, extending their life and reducing waste.
<a href="#">Paper Round</a>	Recycling service, originally founded by Friends of the Earth in 1988, now offering exceptional levels of recycling for sector wastes and promoting the circular economy.

#### What Needs to Happen Next:

- Implement/promote green and food waste collections, enable community composting schemes and continue to increase the amount of waste which can be recycled by widely promoting what can and cannot be recycled to homes and businesses.
- Support waste and recycling organisations to expand of their work, limiting the amount of pointless plastic used throughout services and businesses and encourage refillable or recyclable packaging.
- Promote food waste reduction to achieve reductions in waste to landfill/incineration
- Support the expansion of the Repair Café and its aims and ambitions, promoting the repair of consumer goods, upskilling people across our communities and promoting upcycling and sharing of resources.
- Lobby for supermarkets and other local businesses to reduce their waste and introduce take-back schemes for packaging or old products.
- Create a sharing economy by enabling organisations and individuals to seek resources and equipment from each other, creating shared storage spaces and encouraging swap-shops.
- Work with businesses to improve recycling, reuse and composting in the commercial, industrial and construction sectors and to reduce waste to landfill/incineration

Most people understand that recycling is a good thing. We can still do better, with many items thrown in general waste that could be recycled. Increasing the understanding and ease for people to recycle will help reduce the costs and environmental harm associated with landfill or incineration. Responsibility should also fall on those who produce and sell products, with the introduction of take-back schemes, better packaging, and an ability for the repair of goods purchased. Already some really successful projects are up and running in our area, which could be expanded and supported to deliver more.

Food waste is one area where we lose a lot by not using this precious resource. When food is still edible, we need to make sure that it can be effectively distributed to those who need it across our communities. The newly formed Food Partnership will help support this work. If food cannot be distributed, we should be collecting it and composting it, returning the nutrients to our soil and once again, putting natural cycles into human systems. Where possible composting should take place in homes or businesses, but many successful community composting or services are in place across the country and these can be replicated locally.

The questions and messages we need to ask ourselves are, whether we need to buy new or can we borrow or repair the goods we need? If we no longer need something can others in our community use it? How can something unwanted be reused, upcycled or recycled in the best way? We should be asking ourselves all of these before we throw things away.

If we do need to buy something new, can we reduce the waste involved, by refilling or using reusable containers. Convenience in our modern world has been bad for our environment, with the effects now very visible and impacting on our own health.

Adur and Worthing in 2030 should have exceptionally high rates of recycling, with no food waste. When we shop, we do so mindful of the cost beyond money and we actively seek to share, repair and reuse.

## FOOD

Our aim is for everyone in Adur and Worthing to have access to good quality, local food where our communities understand how food is grown and produced, and why choosing healthy and sustainable options is good for them and the planet.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#"><u>Food Pioneers</u></a>	Organisation with several distinct projects creating food-based experiences that enrich our communities and celebrate our natural environment. Current projects include Worthing Honey Collective and Neptune's Larder.
<a href="#"><u>TTW Seed Swap events</u></a>	Annual event encouraging the sharing of seeds and plants to build resilience in our local food systems. The event showcases the work of local nurseries, community projects, creators and makers.
<a href="#"><u>A new Adur &amp; Worthing Food Partnership</u></a>	The development of a new Adur & Worthing Food Partnership, being led by Community Matters, will bring together food banks, local growers and local community food projects to help create a fairer, more accessible, more sustainable food system.
<a href="#"><u>Worthing Food and Drink Festival</u></a>	Worthing Town Centre Initiative run this annual event to showcase local suppliers and produce.
<a href="#"><u>Community growing and allotments</u></a>	Adur and Worthing has a thriving allotments sector with many active and effective Allotment groups. Several community growing and allotment projects exist across Adur and Worthing. All support communities to learn about growing food and the benefits of fresh, tasty produce.
<a href="#"><u>Sompting Estate</u></a>	Three farm estate which has been exceptional in connecting with the community and providing spaces for major community projects.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Develop the Food Partnership into a strong and successful network, where groups and organisations support each other’s aim and ambitions, promoting local producers and enabling more community growing projects.
- Greater education and promotion of sustainable food: people recognise where their food comes from, food miles, farming practices, what is healthy and sustainable and why it is important for their health and our living world to choose a more plant-based, local diet.
- Ensuring that no-one in our community goes hungry, that foodbanks can provide local, healthy options alongside donated provisions and that these systems work efficiently and collectively with our most vulnerable residents.
- Bring people together to cook and share their food, teaching important life-skills to young people and sharing the knowledge from our older generations.
- Support schools and colleges to educate pupils about their food, teaching them important life skills, supporting their independence and welfare.

Food is vital for life and no one in our community should go hungry. Whilst foodbanks have filled some gaps in our social systems, they rely on donations and still significant amounts of food are wasted every day in our area. The Food Partnership will bring together the range of organisations involved in collection and distribution, to create robust systems and networks, reducing waste and making better use of available food for our communities.

We also want to encourage and promote local growers and producers, localising food distribution and limiting the amount of food miles we need to feed our communities. Supporting small scale farmers can also favour better farming practices and provide access to education about where our food comes and how it is produced. By understanding farming, particularly meat production, we can change how people value their food, knowing the care and work involved in rearing animals and growing crops. The shift to vegetarianism and veganism, or even by eating better quality but less meat in our diets, will also improve community health and limit farming environmental impacts.

Allotments and home food growing has seen an increase of interest in recent years and a significant boost during the coronavirus crisis. Home grown produce tastes delicious and even in the smallest spaces we can grow enough improve the quality of nutrients we consume. Community food growing and cooking projects improve their participants wellbeing, giving people confidence and new skills.

In 2030 we would like to see our communities eating great quality food, much of which is sourced locally and seasonally, with no one going hungry or suffering from malnutrition. People can easily access projects, learning to grow and produce food at home or in shared spaces and who also, actively choose locally farmed produce.

## LAND USE & PLANNING

Our aim is for Adur and Worthing to have high quality, sustainable built environment, that support our sustainability ambitions and use our limited land resources carefully, maximising benefits for communities, economy and wildlife.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#">Shoreham Harbour Regeneration</a>	The plan sets the strategic development and land-use priorities for the Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area up to 2032 and contains the
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	policies against which development management decisions within that area will be made.
<a href="#">Adur Local Plan</a>	The new Local Plan sets the strategic development and land-use priorities for Adur (outside of the South Downs National Park) up to 2032 and contains the policies against which development management decisions within that area will be made.
<a href="#">Worthing Local Plan</a>	The Council is preparing a new development plan, the Worthing Local Plan, which will help to deliver a more sustainable Borough over the next 15 years.
<a href="#">Shoreham Society</a>	Long established group which scrutinises planning applications in and around Shoreham. In addition, they undertake improvement projects, such as Shoreham-by-Tree.
<a href="#">Worthing Heritage Alliance</a>	Its key aims are to represent, develop and promote the heritage of Worthing and its surrounding area. To achieve these aims the Alliance works in partnership with local regional and national bodies.

#### What Needs to Happen Next:

- Lobby central Government to bring in robust standards of planning policy, encouraging zero carbon development, and fair development levies to support local service provision, multi-functional green infrastructure and sustainable transport links.
- Provide communities with methods and opportunities to take action and improve their streets and community places, for example through improving roadside verges, creating rain gardens and flood alleviation schemes, building upon the work of other organisations.
- Ensure that planning decisions consider future likelihood of drought and flooding conditions, sea-level rises whilst both adapting for and mitigating the effects of climate change and the ecological crisis.
- Support developers to deliver better sustainable infrastructure links and multi-functional green spaces, good quality and sustainable transport infrastructure which take account of the whole Climate Action Plan.
- Protect and enhance our existing built and natural heritage, ensuring they are futureproofed and climate resilient and that new residents, visitors and businesses can enjoy these services in the future.

Where we live, nestled between the Downs and the sea, is a beautiful part of the world. The land we can build upon is limited and the wants from this land are many. Our planning policies must align with national policy, so collectively we should be asking for the highest quality national planning policies by consistently asking our politicians and Government to uphold quality over quantity.

Our residents deserve to live in affordable new homes that are warm and close to the services and infrastructure they need. New offices and industrial spaces should be designed to be efficient, running on renewable technologies, prepared for extreme weather events and whose employees, where possible, have access to welcoming green spaces during their breaks.

With land at a premium and our built environment managed carefully by planning policy, it is important that communities have a stake in their local area. This can be achieved when residents are empowered to improve their local surroundings and engage in positive changes. This might be through street tree planting schemes, adopting verges or drains, residents' associations or working together to generate community energy projects. Community efforts will build resilience and collaborations and can help people achieve great ideas that can be replicated by others.

In 2030 we want Adur and Worthing to have great housing, affordable for all, with access to sustainable transport and good walking and cycling infrastructure. We see multi-functional green spaces providing welcoming, beautiful places that link the Downs with the sea, benefiting residents, visitors and wildlife.

## WELLBEING (ETHOS & SPIRIT)

Our aim is for people living and working in Adur and Worthing to feel happy and positive about their lives, their prospects and the future, where neighbours are supportive and the most vulnerable people in our communities are well cared for.

What is already happening locally:

<a href="#"><u>Breathing Spaces</u></a>	Therapeutic gardening sessions with dementia patients and survivors of domestic abuse. Now also running a small scale flower farm to revive the flower farming heritage of Worthing and respond to the problematic effects of cut flowers.
<a href="#"><u>Men in Sheds</u></a>	Local group that provides space, tools and company for men to undertake their own projects at their own pace.
<a href="#"><u>Sustainable Mind</u></a>	Free mindfulness, relaxation and meditation courses to build resilience and support vulnerable members of the community.
<b>Coronavirus Mutual Aid Groups:</b> <a href="#"><u>Worthing</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Shoreham</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Southwick</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Fishersgate</u></a>	During the Covid crisis, multiple neighbourhood groups organically formed to ensure the most vulnerable people in their communities were cared for.

What Needs to Happen Next:

- Provide opportunities for people to discuss their fears and challenges in the adoption of sustainable lifestyles, understanding the impact of climate change and the ecological crisis on mental health, particularly for our young people and children.
- Create a new narrative about our future, showing the positives gained by people and communities through shared action, promote this widely and allow participants to talk about their experiences.
- Educate young people in schools and colleges about our natural environment, providing them with the joy of wildlife and showing them the importance of caring for our living world.
- Build upon the mutual aid groups where possible, to harness the efforts of those involved in caring for neighbours to form residents' associations, in turn providing skills training for those who want to do more in their areas.
- Develop a Climate Advisory Coalition, who can assess all projects which grow from this action plan to see where gaps are, how additional partnerships can create bigger gains and ensuring that no groups are left behind.

The effects of a changing climate are scary. Despite understanding the science globally for forty years, action to date has been limited and we are now in crisis territory. This feels overwhelming for many, particularly our young people who see little hope and are worried about their futures. We need to take action to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe and give everyone hope.



In doing so, we will create happier, healthier residents; people who are more connected with their neighbours and who feel able to improve their areas. We can create secure, skilled jobs during the transition and build a thriving local economy with unique shops and services for residents and visitors alike. We can revive our local wildlife, making beautiful spaces where people can enjoy nature and feel wonder, joy and calm. Our homes and properties can be protected from extreme weather and we can all enjoy the benefits of reduced bills and the security of utilities and food.

In delivering this action plan, we will hear voices from those concerned about the costs, the reality of giving up our existing conveniences, who resist change and dispute science. This is ok. These voices can be carried and acknowledged, participating in the changes they want, when they want, without holding back on vital action. Those who can see this future can lead the change. There are many, many individuals, organisations and businesses already working towards this. We now need everyone who shares a vision of a cleaner, safer and more beautiful world to step up and make this vision a reality. By building stronger partnerships and networks, we can know our collective actions are amounting to much more than we can achieve independently.

Our vision for 2030 sees Adur and Worthing benefiting from close-knit communities, who feel their work is worthwhile and important and who enjoy the many experiences that our area can offer. We want our residents to be environmentally aware, considerate of their consumption and waste.