



Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy 2019–2024: Key Points

What is the East Lothian Climate Change Strategy?

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian Council will tackle climate change, and how the Council will work with others around East Lothian (including local communities, businesses, organisations and individuals) to help us all to do our bit to reduce global warming.

The strategy we have produced so far is a draft. We are asking everyone to give us their views on whether we have got it right, or whether there are things you think should be included or changed.

Why is this strategy needed?

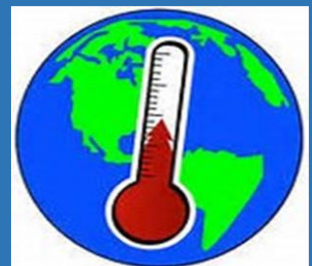
Climate change is one of the most important issues of our times. We need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that cause global warming (see boxed text), to help with the national and worldwide efforts to tackle climate change.

We also need to tackle the impacts of climate change here in East Lothian, to make sure that more vulnerable people in our communities (for example people who are ill or elderly) are not badly affected by climate change impacts, such as flooding. We also need to make sure that our businesses, transport and support systems can keep working during extreme weather events, like the 'Beast from the East' heavy snowfall.

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy describes what the Council is already doing, and sets out an Action Plan of the actions we will take to tackle all of this across East Lothian.

What is Global Warming?

The Earth's climate is changing due to 'greenhouse gases' that are given off because of human activity – particularly when we produce energy for power. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Too much CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere acts like a greenhouse by trapping heat. This makes the Earth's temperature rise, causing **climate change**. Climate change impacts on all aspects of life, increasing risks to the natural environment, food, water, transport systems and health.



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What are the key aims of the Climate Change Strategy?

The strategy sets out what we want to achieve in East Lothian to tackle climate change. This includes:

- Making sure that housing and public buildings are of the best energy standards so they need to use less energy for heating and power;
- Setting out our future plans for energy (heating and power), including renewable energy options like wind turbines;
- Reducing, reusing and recycling waste;
- Improving walking, cycling and sustainable transport networks (like buses and trains) and encouraging people to use these ways of travelling every day;
- Supporting local businesses to reduce waste and be more sustainable;
- Making sure that East Lothian is a place where people can make sustainable choices, where there are connected green spaces with walking and cycling routes, places for nature and local food growing;
- Looking after our wildlife and making sure our natural environment is in good condition;
- Helping our communities and businesses to prepare for the impacts of climate change, for example by having systems in place in case of extreme weather such as storms or flooding.

All of these actions will help us to tackle global warming and the effects of climate change, and will help to make East Lothian a better place for the future.

Can you think of other things we should be doing? Let us know.

How can you get involved?

We would really like to hear from young people, and we will be setting up a Young People's Climate Change Forum, to make sure our young people's voices are heard and to work with young people to take local action here in East Lothian. Let us know if you would like to be involved!

You can let us know your views on our Draft Climate Change Strategy, or any other ideas you have for tackling climate change here in East Lothian, by:

- Contacting East Lothian Council's Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Officer:
Email: climatechange@eastlothian.gov.uk
Phone: 01620 827194
- Writing to: Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Officer, Strategic Investment and Economic Development, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Brewery Park, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HA
- Taking part in the public consultation on the Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy online at eastlothianconsultations.co.uk, by 22nd July 2019.

Thank you

