

The Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact

Key Principles



We commit to constructively **working together** to strengthen climate action which supports sustainable development.



We support a **just transition** which ensures equality, inclusivity and enables local communities to take climate action.



We recognise the important **role of civil society** including youth and children in addressing and responding to climate change and the need for cooperative action.



We recognise the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and other global events and the need for **sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and growth**.



We recognise and support the **climate and ecological emergency** and the need to take climate action alongside protecting and enhancing ecosystems and biodiversity.



We commit to **accelerating and taking decisive action** to 2030; the definitive decade.

Requirements

We recognise the need for the following core requirements in order to tackle climate change and ecological decline:

- 1. Science and Urgency:** the need to act on climate change
We will act to increase ambition and delivery of action in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery in this critical decade and will respond to new scientific evidence and advice accordingly.
- 2. Mitigation:** reducing carbon emissions to net zero
We will implement robust targets and actions plans to achieve net zero, regularly updating strategies, and reporting to demonstrate progress.
We will seek to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of carbon cutting technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition to net zero, including rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation, energy efficiency measures, modal shifts and nature-based solutions, recognising the need for a just transition.
- 3. Adaptation:** reducing the impacts of climate change
We will work together, with support from the research community, to integrate adaptation into individual and local planning, improving understanding of local impacts of climate change, response options and adaptation needs.
- 4. Nature:** halting ecological decline and supporting nature recovery
We will act to deliver local nature recovery, protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the County.
- 5. Finance:** enabling climate action
We call upon financial institutions, investors, private sector and government to scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for mitigation and adaptation and will prepare our own ambitious funding plan.
- 6. Collaboration:** working together to deliver greater action
We commit to engaging with and contributing to climate and nature collaboration including consultations, partnerships, events, knowledge share and other forms of governance, education and awareness raising that enable positive change.

We support the principles of the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact and will support delivery of the requirements herein.

Organisation name:

Signed:

In addition, I/we pledge to:

**The
Leicestershire
Climate and
Nature Pact**

Part B

Background

On 13th November 2021, every party at COP26, representing almost 200 countries, agreed the Glasgow Climate Pact. The Pact commits to reduce emissions, help those impacted by climate change, enable countries to deliver their climate goals and work together to deliver even greater action. This work was continued at COP27 where a historic agreement was reached to create a Loss and Damage fund to support the most vulnerable communities in the face of climate change.

Leicestershire County Council recognises the urgent need for local action at pace and scale to support delivery of these ambitious commitments, having declared a climate emergency in 2019 and aiming to lead by example by achieving net zero for our own operations by 2030 and playing a key role in achieving a net zero county by 2045. We also recognise that nature is in a state of crisis, having suffered significant decline over recent decades. There is a need to reduce carbon, adapt to the impacts of climate change and support nature recovery in a co-ordinated way to tackle the climate and ecological crises. Many other organisations in the county, including district and borough councils, universities and businesses, have also set ambitious targets and commitments to tackle climate change and protect nature.

To recognise this, we have launched the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact in partnership. Our Pact, based on the principles of the Glasgow Climate Pact, will support national and international efforts by bringing together the businesses, voluntary, community and social enterprises, universities, education and research sector, public sector and people of Leicestershire to work towards a common goal:

“Leicestershire will end its contribution to global warming and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The transition to net zero will create a cleaner, greener Leicestershire for people, prosperity and planet; supporting healthy, resilient communities, enabling sustainable growth, and enhancing biodiversity.”

The Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact will be regularly reviewed and supported through delivery of relevant strategies including Leicestershire County Council’s Environment Strategy, Leicestershire Net Zero Strategy, Action for Nature Strategy and other local policies and plans.



The Pact: Core Requirements Explained

1. **Science and Urgency:** the need to act on climate change

- Policy and action based on scientific evidence, such as that produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is of the utmost importance.
- Concerningly, human activities have caused around 1.1°C of warming to date, with impacts already being felt in every region.
- The opportunity to deliver carbon budgets consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal of 1.5°C are now small and being rapidly depleted.

We will act to increase ambition and delivery of action in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery in this critical decade and will respond to new scientific evidence and advice accordingly.

2. **Mitigation:** reducing carbon emissions to net zero

- The Paris Agreement commits to keeping temperature rises to below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, recognising that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at 1.5°C compared with 2°C.
- To keep within 1.5 °C of warming requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (carbon, methane and others).
- There is a need to protect and enhance ecosystems and biodiversity to support carbon reduction, including through forests and other ecosystems, whilst supporting local nature recovery.

We will implement robust targets and actions plans to achieve net zero, regularly updating strategies, and reporting to demonstrate progress.

We will seek to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of carbon cutting technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition to net zero, including rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation, energy and resource efficiency measures, modal shifts and nature-based solutions, recognising the need for a just transition.

3. **Adaptation:** reducing the impacts of climate change

- Climate change is already happening and weather extremes and their adverse impacts on people and nature will continue to increase with every additional increment of rising temperatures, with ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat.
- There is an urgent need to scale up action and support, including finance, capacity building and technology transfer, to adapt, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- Leicestershire individuals and organisations need to consider, prepare and act on adapting to climate change, including enhancing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions and priorities.

We will work together, with support from the research community, to integrate adaptation into individual and local planning, improving understanding of local impacts of climate change, response options and adaptation needs.

4. Nature: halting ecological decline and supporting nature recovery

- Nature is in long term decline, driven by impacts of climate change and resource exploitation. Restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
- It is thought that in Leicestershire there is just 6% woodland cover and less than 1% of land is considered biodiversity rich.
- There is a need for sites managed for nature to be bigger, better quality, more numerous and better connected, with the aim of 30% of land managed for nature by 2030.

We will act to deliver local nature recovery, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services in the County.

5. Finance: enabling climate action

- Current provision of climate finance for mitigation and adaptation remains insufficient to meet our goals.
- There is a need to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilising climate finance, as well as grants and other forms of finance.
- A just transition will require additional support for those disproportionately impacted by climate change or less able to take climate action.
- Growth and economic development must be consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions, climate-resilience, sustainable resource use and valuing natural capital, maximising opportunities to grow the low carbon economy and skills.
- There is a need to strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions, including accelerating, encouraging and enabling innovation, and the importance of predictable, sustainable and adequate funding from diverse sources.

We call upon financial institutions, investors, private sector and government to scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for mitigation and adaptation and will prepare its own ambitious funding strategy.

6. Collaboration: working together to deliver greater action

- Engagement and partnerships with the private sector, universities and education providers, civil society, communities, youth, government and other actors are vital in designing and implementing climate action, accelerating progress and enabling climate equality and empowerment.
- There is a need for coordinated and coherent action to respond to the scale of climate change impacts.

We commit to engaging with and contributing to climate and nature collaborations including consultations, partnerships, events, knowledge share and other forms of governance, education and awareness raising that enable positive change.