

## Engagement Questions (Survey)

**Help shape local climate and nature work – share your views!** *Understanding how you are thinking about climate and nature is more important than ever and we'd like you to help us shape our climate and nature strategies for the coming years.*

The climate and ecological crises are one of the biggest challenges facing us now and in the years to come. The impacts of the changing climate will affect everyone across Greater Cambridge – the area consisting of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – including residents, businesses and communities.

Real progress has been made and the benefits of tackling climate change, in addition to reducing carbon, are wide ranging, including lower energy bills, cleaner air and rivers, more comfortable homes, connected green spaces, and stronger local economies. But there is much more work to be done.

Cambridge City Council is developing a new Climate Change Strategy and South Cambridgeshire District Council has created a new combined Climate and Nature Strategy to guide how our area responds to the challenges and opportunities of climate change and nature recovery.

The two councils already have a number of shared services, including Greater Cambridge Shared Planning and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste, and so have been working closely together to align priorities and actions, reflecting our shared ambitions on addressing climate change and enhancing nature.

The councils are jointly hosting this survey in recognition of the current shared services, as well as the number of residents and businesses whose lives and work take them across the two areas.

You can take the survey once, on either council's engagement platform. The responses will all be analysed together and made available to both councils; however some questions are only relevant for one of the councils.

Please note that whichever platform you complete the survey on, that council will be the data controller for your registration data, and that council will be able to keep in touch with you (according to your subscription preferences). You may therefore prefer to complete the survey on the platform of the council where you are a resident.

As you work your way through the survey on either platform, you will be able to choose which council's questions to respond to.

Part 1 of the survey will help us to understand your concerns about climate change and nature loss, what steps you may have already taken and how you can be supported to take further action on reducing emissions, increasing resilience to climate impacts and helping nature recovery in Greater Cambridge.

Part 2 of the survey focuses on each council's separate strategies and their priorities. Your feedback will help us understand how we can shape the individual strategies around the needs and aspirations of the area and its residents. You can choose which council's strategy you would like to provide feedback on. We understand that some respondents may live in

the South Cambridgeshire district and work in the city or vice versa so you may wish to provide feedback on both.

Please take a few minutes to share your views. *Part 1 should take 5-10 minutes.*

## Part 1

### Section 1a General Awareness & Understanding

#### 1. Postcode of residence (M)

1a) Please select in which capacity you are completing this survey. Please select all relevant options. If you are answering in a specific capacity but also fall under another category, please select Other and specify. (M)

Please note, Greater Cambridge includes both the city of Cambridge and the surrounding district of South Cambridgeshire.

Capacity	
Resident	
A member of the public who visits Greater Cambridge for work, study or leisure	
An elected representative (please specify below)	
On behalf of a parish council	
Private Company less than 10 employees	
Private Company more than 10 employees and less than 250	
Private Company 250 or more employees	
Public sector organisation (please specify below)	
Community or voluntary organisation	
Education or Research organisation	
A representative group representing multiple members	
An individual from outside Greater Cambridge	
An organisation based outside of Greater Cambridge	
Other	

1b) If Other, please state:

#### 2. How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change in Greater Cambridge? (M)

Not concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
---------------	--------------------	----------------

3. What do you see as the most urgent climate-related and nature-related challenges in Greater Cambridge? Select **up to three** options

Biodiversity loss / loss of nature	
------------------------------------	--

Water quality issues	
Water scarcity	
Extreme weather events	
Sea level rise	
Increasing inequalities	
Disruption to travel	
Damage to infrastructure (e.g. roads, railways, power lines)	
Disruption to business / economy	
Disruption to supply chains and logistics	
Financial impacts e.g., increased energy demand for cooling, unpredictable prices for goods	
Impact to health	

3a) If you selected 'Extreme weather events', please specify which extreme weather events (e.g., flooding, heatwaves, droughts, etc.) (O)

4) Have you, your community or your business already experienced impacts as a result of climate change? (M)

Yes

No

4a) If yes, please specify what the impact was and if you have taken any action as a result of this (O)

4. How do you think climate change will affect you, your community or your business in the next 5 years? (M)

## Section 1b Support & Engagement

5. Are you currently taking action to address climate change and protect nature in Greater Cambridge (e.g., doing things to reduce carbon emissions or ensuring you are prepared for the impacts of climate change)?(M)

Yes	
No	

6. Please select which steps you have already taken, and which steps you would or would not consider taking? (M)

	Already done/doing	Would consider doing	Would not consider
Regularly switching off lights and appliances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping the thermostat set to no higher than 21 degrees Celsius	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Buying energy efficient appliances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Draught proofing windows and doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loft insulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cavity wall insulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
External wall insulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Replacing gas heating with renewable heating systems (e.g. heat pumps)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Generating renewable electricity (e.g. solar PV, solar thermal systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Buying more seasonal or locally produced food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reducing consumption of meat and dairy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Repairing clothes, electrical items or other goods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Swapping, donating or selling unwanted goods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recycling household waste (paper, glass, cans, plastic etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Separating garden waste for collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Separating food waste for collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Composting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduced car use through active travel (i.e., walking or cycling)			
Reduced car use through use of public transport			
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6a) If other, please tell us what else you are doing to address climate change and improve nature?

7. What motivates you to take action on climate change and improve nature? Select all that apply (M)

The climate crisis	
Protecting local wildlife and habitats	
Saving money on energy and bills	
Improving my health and wellbeing	
Being part of a community effort	
Concern for future generations	
Setting a good example for others	
To develop my business and improve business performance	
To make my business resilient	
Meeting customer / shareholder / investor expectations	
To attract / retain employees	
To access green finance	

Other	
-------	--

7a) If other, please state your other motivations for taking action on climate change and improving nature.

8. What barriers do you face to taking action on climate change and improving nature in Greater Cambridge? Select all that apply (M)

High upfront cost of low-carbon options	
Limited access to finance or funding	
Lack of time or capacity to make changes	
Lack of information or clear guidance	
Uncertainty about which actions will make a difference	
Lack of low-carbon alternative choices	
Difficulty managing or measuring business / organisation's carbon emissions	
Return on investment is too low or takes too long to realise	
Unsuitable housing or property constraints e.g., Listed buildings, lack of space	
Do not own property (house/flat/office)	
Difficulty accessing public transport or walking and cycling options	
Unaware of / unable to able to find community initiatives or support	
Feeling that individual actions won't make much difference	
Other priorities at this time	
Reputational risk / greenwashing if get it wrong	
Uncertainty about future government policy or regulation	
There is so much information I don't know where best to start	
Other	

8a) If other, please specify

9. What type of support would be most helpful for you as an individual, organisation or business to aid emissions reduction and climate resilience? Select all that apply. (M)

Grant funding	
Training	
Access to Finance / Green Finance	
Networking opportunities	
Guidance and resources	
Access to expert advice	

Other	
-------	--

9a) If other, please specify

10) If you were looking for guidance on action to reduce emissions (including home energy efficiency measures), increase your resilience or support nature recovery, where would you look for information or advice? (M)

Local council	
Friends/neighbours	
Examples in my community	
A trusted contractor	
Local environmental groups	
Non-profit organisations	
Other	

11a) If other, please specify

## Part 2

Thank you for completing the survey so far.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have aligned on objectives and themes of their respective strategies however due to the difference in geographies and contexts that the local authorities operate in, each organisation has different priorities and actions which sit under each objective.

Please now select which council's strategy you would like to provide further feedback on (you may select both). This should take no more than 5-10 minutes.

12. Which local authority area(s) would you like to provide feedback on? (M)

Cambridge City Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Both

## Section 2 Cambridge City Council specific questions

Cambridge City Council is developing a new Climate Change Strategy for Cambridge which builds on the council's current strategy and achievements to date and shows our continued commitment to working towards net zero carbon emissions for both the council and the city as a whole.

The strategy sets out how we plan to reduce emissions, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and enhance nature, while making sure the transition is fair and benefits everyone. It is shaped around seven key objectives and will look to achieve these objectives through a range of actions and projects.

Taking action on climate change will not only cut carbon but also bring many wider benefits — from lower energy bills and cleaner air to more comfortable homes and buildings, greener neighbourhoods, and stronger local economies.

## Contact

Cambridge City Council Climate Change Officers  
[sustainablecity@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:sustainablecity@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Part 3

### Support for the Strategy

13.To what extent do you support Cambridge City Council's vision for its new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031)? (M)

(Our vision is for a city where people and nature enjoy a clean river and clean air in species-rich and connected green spaces. We also want to play our part in slowing/preventing/minimising climate change, and supporting our communities to adapt to the changing climate.

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose

### Strategic Objectives

Cambridge City Council's new Climate Change Strategy will be based around seven objectives which the council will be working towards through the implementation of the strategy.

14.Please rate your level of support for each of the objectives in the Climate Change Strategy (M)

Objective	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
<b>Transport:</b> Reducing the need for fossil fuel-powered travel and encouraging the use of low- and zero-carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Energy &amp; Retrofit:</b> Improving energy efficiency and climate resilience of homes and buildings across Cambridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Objective	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
<b>Nature &amp; Water:</b> Enhancing nature, increasing tree canopy cover, and safeguarding water to help Cambridge adapt to the impacts of climate change <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sustainable Food:</b> Increasing access to local, low-impact, seasonal food and reducing food waste <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Waste Minimisation:</b> Reducing waste and supporting a circular economy <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Supply Chain &amp; Finance:</b> Reducing emissions and maximising the social and environmental value of procurement and partnerships across the city <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Support &amp; Behaviour Change (ensuring a just transition):</b> Providing accessible and inclusive support to communities and residents to empower and enable low-carbon behaviour change <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14a.If you have further comments on the key objectives, please add them here: (O?)

15.We've introduced some new areas of focus in this Climate Change Strategy. Please tell us how supportive you are of the council taking these areas of work forward over the next 5 years and share any feedback you may have. Please see the engagement document for more information on areas of focus. (M)

	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Please provide any further comments
Developing a collaborative city-wide plan for climate					
Consideration of Offsetting					
Working with suppliers to measure and reduce emissions (Council Scope 3 emissions)					
Supporting Community Energy projects					
Supporting and applying research and innovation on climate change					

16.Do you think that there is anything within Cambridge City Council’s control or influence, that has not been covered within objectives and action areas of the strategy but should be? (M)

17.Is there anything else that you think Cambridge City Council could do within its control or influence, to support you to take action on climate change? (M)

18.If you have any further comments on, or ideas for, the Climate Change Strategy to add that you feel have not been covered within the survey, please provide them here (O – but see 14a)

Would you like to answer 5 additional questions to help shape some other areas of the council’s work, such as the development of a heat network and the Urban Forest Strategy? (M)

Yes
No

#### Part 4

To help shape the council’s next Urban Forest Strategy, we are seeking your feedback on the council’s work with trees across the city, so we can ensure they continue to play a vital role in helping Cambridge adapt to climate change.

19.How important do you think it is to increase tree canopy cover in Cambridge as part of climate change adaptation (e.g., providing shade, cooling, flood mitigation)? (M)

Very important	Important	Not important
----------------	-----------	---------------

20.What benefits do you most value from trees in Cambridge in the context of climate change? Please select up to three options. (M)

Shade and cooling during heatwaves	
Carbon storage	
Improved air quality	
Flood mitigation and water management	
Habitat for wildlife and pollinators	
Improved health and wellbeing	
Other (please specify)	

21.How supportive are you of the council taking stronger measures to protect existing trees that provide climate resilience benefits (e.g., shade, carbon storage, biodiversity)? (M)

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
------------------	---------	--------	-----------------

22.What do you think is the most effective way to balance tree protection with the need for development in Cambridge in the context of climate change? (M)

Strengthen protection for existing trees	
Increase tree planting requirements in new developments	
Other (please specify)	

23.To help shape the council's work on the development of a district heat network, please answer the following questions:

Are you aware of the Government's work on heat network zoning? (M)

Yes	
No	

23a)If yes, if a heat network zone were to be implemented in Cambridge, do you feel that connecting to a heat network would enable you to decarbonise your property (home or building) more easily? (O)

24. To help route you to the relevant next part of the survey, please confirm whether you are responding to this consultation in the capacity of a business, public sector organisation or community organisation? (M)

Yes	
No	

## Part 5 – Call for evidence and expression of interest

We are developing a city-wide plan which will to help build a more united approach to addressing climate change in Cambridge, reflect the depth and breadth of climate and nature action taking place across the city and provide a shared framework for scaling impact.

To help us build this we would like to understand more about what businesses, public sector and community organisations are planning to do to tackle climate change and enhance nature in and around Cambridge, and the commitments that have been made to this.

if you are an organisation or business, we would be very grateful if you could complete the next stage of the survey. If you are completing this survey as an individual, please do not complete this section.

25.Would you like to be involved in developing a city-wide climate plan? (M)

Yes	
-----	--

No	
----	--

26.If yes, please tell us more about what your organisation (business, public sector or community organisation) will be doing to address climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge. Please describe your future projects or initiatives, to help us to build a broader picture of action on climate change across the city. Please also describe what outcomes or changes your organisation is hoping to achieve or deliver through these initiatives. (O)

27.Please upload any relevant documentation or links here which would provide information on your plans and commitments for addressing climate change and/or enhancing nature, such as a Climate Change or Sustainability Strategy. (O)

28.Please provide the most appropriate email address to contact you or your organisation to ensure you are included in future communications and events about the city-wide plan. If you'd prefer to discuss the city-wide plan further before sharing any documentation or commitments, please state here and someone from the team will be in touch to follow up with you. (M)