MEDWAY CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS REPORT 2025

This report summarises key progress and achievements during Year 1 of the Climate Change Action Plan 2025–2028.

The **Climate Change Action Plan 2025–2028** was adopted by Cabinet in **August 2025**, introducing **two new aims** and **five priority areas of action** for Medway.

Knowledge and Empowerment

Medway launched its **Marmot Place commitment** with environmental sustainability one of the **eight core principles** to tackle inequalities and improve health outcomes

Five meetings of the Community Climate Working Group were held bringing representation from across Medway's communities.

A new **Medway Community Energy Project Working Group** was established, led by community volunteers and supported by the Climate Response Team.

Three meetings of the Climate Change Members Working Party took place, and the **first Climate Action Parish Improvement Plan** was completed for High Halstow.

The Climate Response Team partnered with the University of Kent to deliver **A Park for Life workshops**, and with Electric Medway on **Hopes for our Future Environment workshops**. The team also engaged widely with residents, schools, local organisations and businesses at a variety of events across Medway.

The A Better Medway Schools Award continues to drive climate action through school pledges, with **15 schools** achieving Bronze, Silver or Platinum awards and a **further 19** actively working towards Bronze.

The **Medway Healthy Early Years (HEY) Award** criteria were updated to embed climate action and sustainability, and **two climate training sessions** were delivered to **27 early years practitioners** across **22 settings.**

Medway strengthened its leadership on climate and business by hosting its **first Climate Business event** with over 100 attendees, while the Medway Business and Skills Showcase, with more than 200 participants, featured a **Net Zero panel.**

Four free business net zero audits were undertaken, and **six Partners for Green Growth grants totalling £20,000** were awarded.

The Medway Business Awards **Sustainable Innovation Award** went to Syntech Biofuel.

21 creative organisations signed up to the **Kent & Medway Creative Sector Environmental Sustainability Pledge**

The **Medway Sustainable Events Guide** was launched and 30 learners participated in Events Uncovered to find out more about the guide.

Medway Adult Education promoted and delivered **21 courses incorporating climate change themes**, such as reducing water consumption and reducing food waste, supporting 138 individuals.

The Climate Change **Newsletter** continued to provide regular updates on all things climate related in Medway. Targeted **social media** content, including the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Service, the National Energy Action campaign the government's Clean Energy Campaign, led to increased engagement across the climate channels.

34 Medway Council staff members, from across 12 different teams, undertook their Staff Climate Volunteering Day.

Clean, Efficient and Equitable Energy

Significant **energy efficiency improvements were made to council owned homes**, with 88 properties receiving cavity wall insulation and 281 upgraded with new boilers. Other measures included new windows and doors, loft insulation, and new LED lighting.

63 homeowners were supported to install energy efficiency measures in their properties funded by ECO4, Great British Insultation Scheme and HUG2 grant programmes.

Solar Together Kent was supported for a fifth year. 45 installs have been completed to date, giving an estimated Co2e reduction in year 1 of 35,938kg. 42 homeowners added a battery to their solar installation.

A feasibility study for a **heat network in Hoo** was completed and £100,000 funding secured for the next detailed planning and development stage

LED lighting was installed at Hoo Sports Centre, providing an anticipated saving of 14,000 kWh per year of electricity.

Sustainable Travel and Transport

Participation in the **Walk on Wednesday (WOW) scheme grew to 22 schools**, with full year data showing a 15.48% rise in active travel, nearly a 15% reduction in car trips, and **national top10 rankings** in the Autumn competition

Five new School Streets were delivered, bringing the total to 12 locations across Medway.

Bus travel incentives proved highly effective, enabling **31,000 free child journeys** over the summer and generating **passenger uplifts of 32.5% in June and 61% in December** through Free Bus Travel Weekends. Timetable refinements improved **bus punctuality to over 85%**, with several days reaching around 90% and one depot achieving **best punctuality day nationally** in May.

A **draft Local Bus Infrastructure Plan** was completed, with priority routes identified and funding secured. **Phase 1 improvements at Chatham Waterfront Bus Station** have improved passenger access and operational conditions.

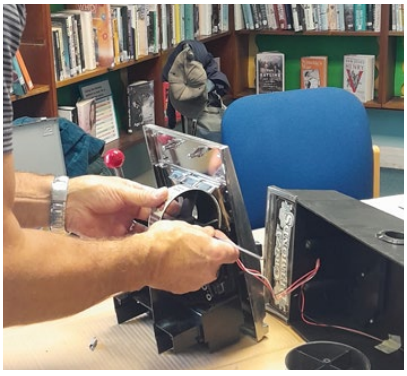
Eight additional **green roof bus stops** were installed across Medway.

The **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** was approved by Cabinet in March, creating a **10-year investment plan** for walking and cycling routes.

Cycling levels continue to increase across the year, including a 37% increase from April to June compared to the previous year.

The **Refuse Collection Vehicle fleet replacement programme completed**, replacing 46 vehicles with more efficient Euro 6 diesel models, with solar powered ancillaries and climate focused branding.

Resource Efficiency



Child Friendly Medway continued to provide a **Book Swap Shop** at The Pentagon Shopping Centre, operating 42 times across the year, with hundreds of books exchanged.

The **Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service collected 4,511 items**, diverting the vast majority from disposal with 54% recycled and 45% reused for parts.

At our existing allotment sites, **40 unused plots were brought back into use and 63 new plots were created.**

12 monthly Repair Cafes were hosted in libraries, attracting over 330 residents and supporting repair and reuse.

A **Clothes Swap** launched at Gillingham Library, with six events held to date and more than 370 attendees.

The **Small Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE) service** expanded to larger containers at key collection sites in response to high demand.

Green and Resilient Medway

Over **3,500 tree plugs and feathers** were planted at Deangate Park by community volunteers and council staff.

Medway **secured funding from the Tree Council to plant 1,300 trees** at Burnham Walk as part of the National Highways Tree Programme.

Progress continued on a **new Community Tree Nursery at Cozenton Park**, supported by the **Friends of Cozenton Park Tree Nursery**, formally established in April 2025.

Medway supported the development of the **Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy** which launched in November 2025.

The third **annual tree whip giveaway,** as part of National Tree Week, supported the planting of **75 new trees** in gardens and community green spaces.

The **draft Local Plan was published** in June 2025 and submitted to the planning inspectorate for examination. A sustainable and green future is a key objective of the plan.

You can sign up to our newsletter and learn about climate change action in Medway by visiting:

Medway.gov.uk/ClimateChange

You can also follow us on

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