

Hello from Cllr Sarah Dyke, Environment Portfolio Holder, and the rest of the Environment Team!



Welcome to the July edition of Get SuSSed, another month full of big news and exciting events coming up. We hope you all remained safe and well in the recent heatwave, however it is important to remember that the record breaking temperatures are a direct impact of global warming due to increased carbon emissions in our atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. We continue to work hard here at SSSC to reduce our carbon emissions and minimise our climate change impact.

We have compiled our carbon emission data from the last financial year 2021-2022 and we are pleased to say that we have reduced our carbon footprint by 26% on the previous year's emissions! This is a fantastic improvement for our council and has given us further determination to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Read on to find out what we are doing to get there!

Best eco wishes from Sarah and the Environment team x

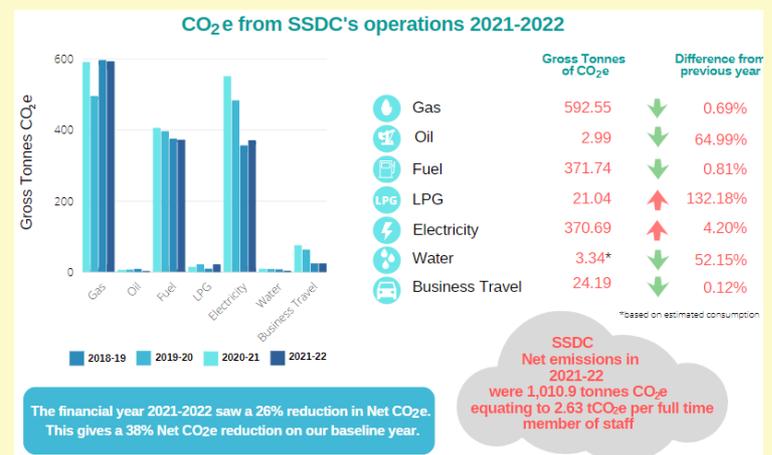
SSDC Green News

Carbon Calculator Update

In May 2019 we recognised a climate and ecological emergency and committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. To allow us to track our journey to carbon neutrality, we're working from our 2018-2019 baseline of Net 1,633.43 tCO₂e to measure our progress year on year.

In April 2021 the council switched all its electricity to a renewable energy generated supply using 100% renewable energy (so from wind, solar, hydro, and not including nuclear). This has helped the council to reduce its Net CO₂e emissions by a substantial 26% on last year's emissions, and an impressive 38% reduction on the baseline emissions.

You can view this year's figures [here](#), or you can [visit our website](#) for a full report of the data.



Big thanks as recycling rate hits new heights



Somerset's recycling rate is at an all-time high thanks to Recycle More and everyone's efforts to do the right thing with their waste. At 56.2%, the rate for 2021-22 is a big step forward from 52.4% the previous year - coming after more than a decade of being stuck around

the 52% level. It's the highest it has been since such figures started being tracked more than 20 years ago. This should put us in the top 10% when national figures are shared later in the year. Click [here to find out more](#).

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) would like to thank everyone for making the most of the new service. With its roll-out only just complete, Recycle More should continue to drive up the county's recycling rate next year!

To keep up to date with waste services, sign up for the SWP e-newsletter at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter.

Solar schemes at Leisure sites complete!

Work to introduce solar power to three Freedom Leisure sites across South Somerset is now complete and will save 21 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 11 cars off the road!



Solar panels have been installed at Westlands Sport and Fitness Centre, Yeovil, Wincanton Sports Centre and Goldenstones Leisure Centre, Yeovil.

Further plans to introduce ASHPs (Air Source Heat Pumps) at all three leisure centre sites will increase the CO2 reductions to 435 tonnes, the equivalent to taking 229 cars off the road! [Click here](#) to read the full article.

South Somerset Community Biodiversity Toolkit



Community Biodiversity Pack - Call out for Case-Studies

We launched our South Somerset [Community Biodiversity Pack](#) in March, with the aim of supporting our communities to take the lead in preserving and restoring biodiversity in their community!

We're now looking to hear from you for any projects you might be planning or have recently delivered so that we can help showcase and celebrate your progress to date. The size of the project doesn't matter - even the smallest of changes can benefit nature, so please do get in touch with our team [here](#).

If you would like any advice or support with your plans, remember to check out the [Biodiversity Pack here](#), which includes lots of practical tips for managing your land for biodiversity.

In the Community

Our local community environment groups

[Somerset Climate Action Network](#) (CAN) have started to document a series of videos about our local community environment groups.

Check out the amazing work of two of our local groups in South Somerset, Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) and Sustainable Yeovil. Click the link to hear more.

SHARE:Frome

Share:Frome is a library of things, and like a library you can sign up as a member and borrow things as you need! They have a large catalogue of items to choose from which you can [browse here](#).

This initiative has an incredibly positive impact on the environment by minimising the number of products you buy and therefore reducing your carbon footprint. You can also save a

Somerset CAN are keen for you to share any of their videos on your community pages or at screenings in local events you may be hosting! Email details to SomersetCAN@gmail.com.



huge amount of money as some of the products on offer retail for as much as £300 from new!

To find out more about this fantastic community project that's great for the planet, [click here](#).



For the Community

Sustainable transport in Somerset

We all know that Somerset is a great place to live, and we want to build on that by ensuring that we can travel around our area in a sustainable way, but we want your ideas!



Somerset Councils want to know what travel improvements you think need to be made to your community. To have your say, [click here](#), or you can keep up to date with sustainable projects in your area [here](#).



Energy saving advice and events for local climate action groups

The way we produce and use energy needs to change as not only is it one of the main causes of the climate emergency, but also many people in Somerset can't afford to keep their homes warm in winter or cool in summer.

The Safe & Warm Somerset team are available to support people and groups with free, practical energy saving advice and access to funding for energy saving home improvements. If you work with people in the local community, the team can deliver talks about energy efficiency including low or no cost top tips, energy saving measures like insulation, how to manage energy debt, discounts and grants or other support available. Energy advisors can attend your meetings or events with an information stand or run drop-in surgeries as part of existing initiatives you might be running.

The Safe and Warm Somerset team recently attended Envirofair 22 to offer energy advice to people in the community. The event was organised and run by volunteers from Stoke Environment Group who said the team "played a vital role in the event".

Find out more about how the Safe and Warm Somerset team can support your activities by emailing [here](#), or refer someone for support using [this online form](#).

Home upgrade grants scheme for off-gas homes

Somerset Independence Plus (a partnership between all the Somerset District Council's and Somerset County Council) and The Centre for Sustainable



Energy are working across Somerset to install energy efficiency measures to **off-gas homes**, at no cost to the household. These improvements will help make homes warmer and more comfortable, whilst helping lower energy bills and carbon emissions.

Your home could benefit from measures such as solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, underfloor insulation, high heat retention electric storage heaters, solar panels, air source heat pumps,

heating controls or double glazing. We will carry out a free energy survey and let you know how we can help!

For eligibility criteria [click here](#).

To apply, call the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 0800 038 5730 (10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Thursday) or email them [here](#).

This offer is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis so find out more and apply today so your application can get started.



Somerset Retrofit Accelerator extended!

There are a limited number of discounted retrofit plans left available for home occupiers wanting to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of

their homes, but be quick so not to miss out!

The retrofit plan will help to identify the best options for home improvements that will help reduce energy bills and improve the comfort of your home. To find out more reducing your energy, you can visit [our website](#), or [click here](#) to apply.

Parish Environment Champions

We are committed to working together to make a difference



A reminder that we are always looking to expand our Parish Environment Champion network; we currently have volunteers in over 60 parishes, but we are still missing representation from a number of areas across the district! Please see below for missing Parishes.

If you are located in one of the Parishes listed below and you would like to support your area with sharing news and environmental initiatives to help deliver SSDC'S Environment Strategy, then [click here](#), or email us directly [here](#).

EAST:

- Bacary
- Barton St David
- Bratton Seymour
- Brewham
- Charlton Horethorne
- Charlton Musgrove
- Chilton Cantelo
- Compton Pauncefoot
- Corton Denham
- Ilchester
- Kingsdon
- Kingweston
- Limington
- Marston Magna
- Mudford
- North Vale
- Pen Selwood
- Pitcombe
- Rimpleton
- Shepton Montague
- South Cadbury
- Sparkford

- Stoke Trister & Bayford
- Wincanton
- Yeovilton

NORTH:

- Aller
- Barrington
- Beercrocombe
- Compton Dundon
- Curry Mallet
- Ilton
- Isle Abbots
- Kingsbury Episcopi
- Long Load
- Lopen
- Montacute
- Muchelney
- Pitney
- Puckington
- Seavington St Mary
- Seavington St Michael
- Tintinhull

WEST:

- Chillington
- Cricket St Thomas
- Cudworth
- Dinnington
- Dowlish Wake
- East Chinnock
- Horton
- Kingstone