

Environment Strategy for East Sussex 2010-2026

Pre-consultation Draft

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER AMENDMENT
DURING THE COURSE OF THE PRE-CONSULTATION STAGE**

This draft Environment Strategy has been developed by the East Sussex Environment Strategy Group, a network of organisations and individuals, who have decided to work together to help deliver the environmental vision for the county set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, *Pride of Place*.

The East Sussex Environment Strategy Group currently comprises:

Action in Rural Sussex

Bradford's Farm

Eastbourne Borough Council

East Sussex County Council

English Heritage

Environment Agency

Friends of the Earth Lewes

Hastings Borough Council

High Weald AONB Unit

Lewes District Council

National Trust

Natural England

NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald

NHS Hastings & Rother



Plumpton Village Action Plan

Rother District Council

SpeakUp

RSPB

Sea Space

South Downs Joint Committee

Sussex Air Quality Partnership

Sussex Archaeological Society

Sussex Sea Fisheries District Committee

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Transition Town Lewes

Wealden District Council



Foreword

[To be completed]

Have your say

We very much want to know if we have got this draft Environment Strategy for East Sussex right. Please tell us your views, good or bad. In particular, we've asked some questions at the end of the Strategy that we'd especially like to know about, but please feel free to comment on any aspect of the draft Strategy.

Please send your comments to:

By XX February, 2011

Our Vision for the Environment of East Sussex: 2026

Pride of Place, the Sustainable Community Strategy for East Sussex, was developed by the six local authorities and six Local Strategic Partnerships in East Sussex and sets out a shared vision for East Sussex to 2026 to

“create places where everyone can prosper, be safe and healthy, and live in a high quality environment.”

The strategy contains countywide strategic objectives and priorities under nine themes and two population groups to help achieve this vision. The strategic priority for environment and climate change is to

protect and enhance our natural and built environment for current and future generations, and enable individuals and organisations to tackle and adapt to climate change

The *Pride of Place* Countywide Action Plan, one of the plans that helps deliver Pride of Place, encourages partners to work together to promote, protect and enhance the natural and built environment and develop a countywide partnership environment strategy leading to cleaner and greener communities and improved access to open spaces.

The East Sussex Environment Strategy Group has come together in response to this. In addition, the Group recognises the important role that achieving the environmental priority and its associated actions will play in supporting the delivery of other strategic priorities in *Pride of Place*, notably those relating to economic prosperity and jobs, health, transport, culture, sports and leisure.



The East Sussex Environment Strategy Group has developed **ten environmental principles** to guide its member organisations and others living and working in East Sussex towards the realisation of this vision and achievement of the environmental strategic priority by 2026, whilst also contributing towards the delivery of other strategic priorities. Beneath the environmental principles we have identified **three key objectives** which translate each principle into practice. Each objective is supported by a short/medium term action, showing how we will make the strategy happen. Together these comprise an action plan. The action plan will identify which partner will take the lead responsibility for delivery of each action.

Because we aim to implement this Strategy over the next 15 years, we cannot set out a detailed implementation plan for the whole of that period. The actions we have identified here set the Strategy in motion over the next 2-3 years and further actions will need to be developed in time to deliver it. The principles are not set out in the Strategy in any order of priority, neither are the objectives and actions.



Partners will be encouraged to sign up to running their own organisations according to the principles, as well as to developing new plans, strategies and services in line with them. We will take steps to deliver the objectives by working together. We would also like to encourage any organisations and individuals to adopt some or all these principles and work in partnership with us to realise the vision for East Sussex for 2026.

Strategy Outcomes *what we are seeking to achieve through this strategy is to have:*

- improved quality of life and health outcomes by creating a healthier, better quality environment which people make use of as part of more active lifestyles
- increased the understanding of the role which the environment plays in the economy of East Sussex and supported the creation of jobs and prosperity through environmentally sustainable economic growth
- made East Sussex a more resource efficient county, which meets more of its own needs
- conserved and enhanced the landscape, built and historic environment of East Sussex so that it retains its unique character
- conserved existing areas of high nature conservation quality, expanded, buffered and linked these areas, and made the wider landscape more permeable to wildlife, in order to reverse biodiversity loss in East Sussex
- reduced the contribution that East Sussex makes to greenhouse gas emissions and made the county more adaptive to climate change
- increased public awareness and recognition of the environment and inspired greener behaviours
- influenced other strategies and policies to help achieve these outcomes and delivered more efficient and effective environmental protection and enhancement through joint working

Our environmental principles

We will use the ways in which we operate and the influence we have to:

- *promote the economic value of the environment and opportunities for growth in jobs and prosperity that it presents*
- *reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, become more adaptive to climate change and help individuals and communities to do the same*
- *protect and enhance the diverse inland, coastal and marine habitats of the county and the wildlife they support, making them more resilient to climate change, reversing biodiversity loss, and help create healthy seas and sustainable fisheries*
- *respect and care for the built heritage of East Sussex, develop high quality environments in our towns and villages and protect and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape of the county*
- *promote the use of open spaces as part of healthier and more active lifestyles*
- *minimise the amount of waste created in East Sussex and re-use and recycle more household and business waste*
- *reduce the impact of travel on the environment and improve sustainable travel choices to access services and facilities within and between communities in the county*
- *improve the quality of the environment and our health by reducing air and noise pollution*
- *reduce the environmental impacts of food production and distribution, improve health through better diets and support the agricultural and food economy of the county*
- *increase our understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the environment of East Sussex*



Environmental principle:

promote the economic value of the environment and opportunities for growth in jobs and prosperity that it presents

Our environment in facts and figures:

It is estimated that tourists bring £3 billion into the local economy of East and West Sussex every year

This visitor spend is thought to support around 60,000 jobs, as well as facilities and services for local people

It is estimated that the woodlands and grasslands alone in East Sussex provided services to us worth £4.2 million each year

The Government estimates that, globally, the degradation of our planet's ecosystems is costing us €50 billion each year – a figure that could rise to the equivalent of 7% of global GDP by 2050

Action to prevent degradation can have a benefit to cost ratio of as much as 100:1 according to Defra

Three key issues for East Sussex:

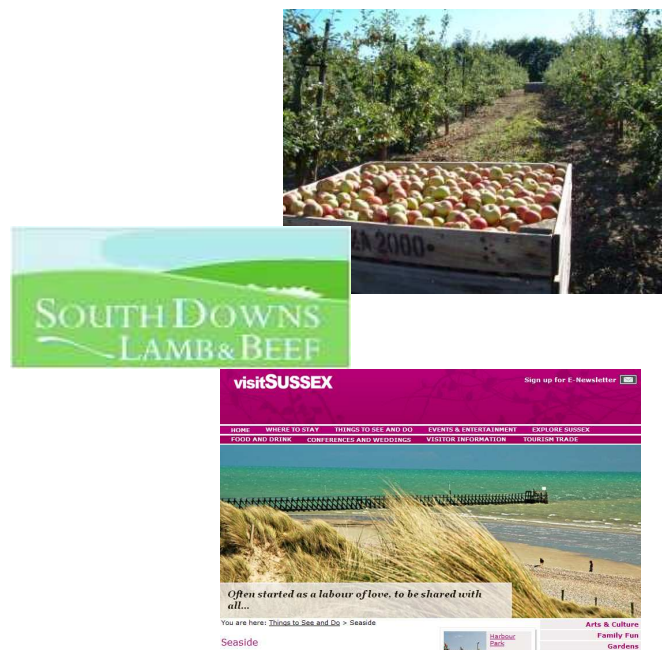
There is a limited understanding of the economic value of the environment in decision making so that it is frequently undervalued or ignored

Opportunities exist to create jobs and economic growth in areas which bring about environmental improvement, such as renewable energy and low carbon industries, and there are opportunities to stimulate markets for sustainable locally branded products such as timber, biomass, and High Weald and South Downs lamb and venison, and MSC certified fisheries

Sustainable tourism in East Sussex brings economic benefits but it is dependent on the distinctive, high quality landscapes, wildlife and habitats and heritage assets of the county

Our objectives:

- Promote sustainable consumption and production and encourage and support the transition to a low carbon economy in the county
- Ensure that the economic value of the environment is properly taken into account in decision making by businesses, organisations and the community
- Further support the development of sustainable tourism in East Sussex through organisations such as the Sussex Tourism Partnership



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will include measures to encourage and support the transition to a low carbon economy in a new Economic Development Strategy for the county by July 2011 [TBC with S. Powell]	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will develop and publicise a set of locally relevant case-studies that demonstrate the economic value of the East Sussex natural environment and how this can be used in decision making by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Natural England, Borough and District Councils
We will sign up 20 more businesses across the South Downs to the Green Tourism Business Scheme by June 2012	Lead: South Downs Joint Committee/National Park Authority

Environmental principle:

reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, become more adaptive to climate change and help individuals and communities to do the same

Our environment in facts and figures:

With climate change we are expected to have hotter, drier summers with more heat waves, and warmer, wetter winters, with more storms and flash flooding

Flooding in Lewes, Uckfield and Robertsbridge in October 2000 caused around £130 million of damage

The heat wave in August 2003 caused an estimated 1,600 premature deaths in southern England

By 2026 we can expect sea levels along our coastline to be over 11 centimetres higher than they were in 1990 and by 2050 we could have over a quarter less summer rainfall than we have now

In East Sussex we each create 13 tonnes of CO₂ per year, including the emissions created from the goods and services we buy - if we shared this fairly with everyone else on the planet, this would need to fall to two tonnes per person by 2050

Three key issues for East Sussex:

The impacts of predicted increases in severe types of weather like heat waves, droughts, storms, flooding and coastal erosion, and the additional demand for water

Development on floodplains and how this affects our ability to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change

The need to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions, and source more of the county's energy from renewable sources

Our objectives:

- Reduce emissions of CO₂ in East Sussex at least in line with national targets and support the development of appropriate local sources of renewable energy
- Prepare for the effects of climate change and ensure that organisations and communities in East Sussex develop and implement plans to adapt to climate change
- Effectively manage flood risk and coastal erosion, ensuring that new developments are appropriately located and that people and property are better prepared and protected



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will develop climate change adaptation plans by March 2012 [TBC] , in order to implement measures in all priority areas	Lead: Environment Agency Partners: Climate Change Partnership for East Sussex
We will work with partners and the community to implement Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans by TBC and undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment by June 2011	Lead: South East Coastal Group (Shoreline Management Plans); Environment Agency (Catchment Flood Management Plans); East Sussex County Council (Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments)
We will set a target for reducing CO ₂ emissions from the local authority buildings and activities in East Sussex by TBC and implement priority measures by TBC	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils

Environmental principle:

protect and enhance the diverse inland, coastal and marine habitats of the county and the wildlife they support, making them more resilient to climate change, reversing biodiversity loss, and help create healthy seas and sustainable fisheries

Our environment in facts and figures:

Sussex as a whole is home to 472 species which are either globally threatened or in rapid decline

Only half of the county's farmland is under an environmental stewardship scheme

East Sussex has 7 internationally important habitat sites, 9 National Nature Reserves, 64 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and 286 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

All of the beaches in East Sussex met EU mandatory bathing water quality standards in 2009

East Sussex has the only designated Marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in the UK

Three key issues for East Sussex:

The deterioration, fragmentation and loss of habitats and biodiversity, including loss of native hedgerows, and decline in quality and fragmentation of woodlands

Threats to habitats and biodiversity from climate change, including the impacts on coastal habitats & species and rivers and streams, and the need to manage habitats to improve their adaptability to support biodiversity

The need to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment and support sustainable fisheries

Our objectives:

- Protect and enhance key biodiversity sites, halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity, and further develop and restore large scale habitats
- Ensure that there is good management of key wildlife sites in both rural and urban areas, and connect and buffer sites to make them more permeable to wildlife and adaptive to climate change
- Create a coherent network of well-managed marine conservation zones, to protect important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and archaeological remains and support healthy seas and sustainable fisheries



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will work in partnership to develop co-ordinated implementation and management plans for Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and local, national and internationally important biodiversity and geodiversity sites by March 2013	Lead: Sussex Biodiversity Partnership? Partners: Natural England; Borough and District Councils; RSPB, East Sussex County Council
We will work with industry, leisure users and other stakeholders to identify and designate Marine Protected Areas off the East Sussex Coast, to create healthy and sustainable seas by December 2012	Lead: Balanced Seas Project Team Partners: Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
We will develop a countywide approach to green infrastructure, by working together to ensure that planning policy frameworks protect and help reverse the decline in biodiversity and make habitats more adaptive to climate change by March 2013	Lead: Natural England Partners: Borough and District Councils; RSPB, East Sussex County Council

Environmental principle:

respect and care for the built heritage of East Sussex, develop high quality environments in our towns and villages and protect and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape of the county

Our environment in facts and figures:

51% of East Sussex is part of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 14% is part of the South Downs National Park

Ashdown Forest in the High Weald is the largest area of heathland vegetation and largest public access site in South East England

English Heritage identified 33 heritage assets at risk in East Sussex in 2010

The historic environment of East Sussex includes archaeological sites stretching over 250,000 years, Iron Age hillforts, Roman villas, Saxon burial grounds, medieval castles and ship wrecks

The population of the county is estimated to increase by 23,400 by 2026

Our objectives:

- Conserve the landscape and built heritage of East Sussex in a manner appropriate to its significance and protect the distinctive character of towns, villages and wider landscape of the county, that contribute to the local identity of East Sussex
- Develop high quality environments in our towns and villages and improve streets and other public open spaces so that people feel safer in them
- Reduce the environmental impact of new and existing developments and create well planned environmental infrastructure

Three key issues for East Sussex:

Decline in quality of our town centres, detracting from a sense of place and community, along with environmental crime and anti-social behaviour and increasing dominance of vehicles

The need to manage the impacts of new development and infrastructure for an increasing population on the local identity of our built environment and landscape

The deterioration, fragmentation and loss of the distinctive character of the East Sussex landscape, through creeping suburbanisation in rural areas, loss of significant landscape features, trees and hedgerows, decline in quality and fragmentation of woodlands, and heritage assets at risk



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will ensure that the infrastructure (including green infrastructure) associated with new development is planned for and that environmental objectives are represented in Local Development Frameworks by March 2012	Lead: Borough and District Councils
We will further develop and implement a partnership approach to managing and restoring the landscape of the county, including its historic character by March 2013	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: South Downs National Park Authority; High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit; Borough and District Councils
We will develop a series of Area Action Plans, Master Plans and other plans which improve towns and villages across East Sussex and strengthen their local character by March 2013	Lead: Borough and District Councils Partners: East Sussex County Council

Environmental principle:

promote the use of open and green spaces as part of healthier and more active lifestyles

Our environment in facts and figures:

Only 13% of people in East Sussex are meeting current recommendations for weekly physical activity

Physical activity reduces the risk of developing major chronic diseases like coronary heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes by up to 50%, and the risk of premature death by about 20-30%

Physical inactivity is estimated to be costing the Primary Care Trusts in East Sussex over £10.5 million per year

Evidence from the Natural England/Department of Health Walking for Health scheme suggests that for every £1 invested in the scheme, £7 worth of health benefit is delivered

People who live within 500m of accessible green space are 24% more likely to take the recommend amount of physical activity

Three key issues for East Sussex:

Opportunities exist to reduce health inequalities, improve physical and mental wellbeing and reduce the costs of healthcare by improving physical activity and participation in sports, active recreation, learning and play in open spaces

Our open spaces are under-valued as resources for the community and places where people can connect with and benefit from being in the natural environment

We could provide better sustainable access to open spaces, in line with national and local standards

Our objectives:

- Promote the use of open spaces, including the countryside, beach, parks and gardens among children and young people, and older people, as a means of enabling people to live healthy and active lives
- Ensure that 90% of the population of the county has access to a natural greenspace within 5 minutes of their home, to provide the opportunity to be active outdoors on a daily basis
- Promote everyday active travel with walking and cycling routes through green corridors



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will ensure that a widely promoted range of green exercise programmes (from Walking for Health to Care Farming) is available to actively engage everyone in the safe, fun and sociable use of greenspace by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Natural England
We will implement a Strategic Open Spaces Strategy for East Sussex to provide greater public access to open space can be provided by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will develop a new countryside park at Pebsham by December 2011	Lead: Rother District Council Partners: East Sussex County Council; Hastings Borough Council; Crowhurst Parish Council

Environmental principle:

minimise the amount of waste created in East Sussex and re-use and recycle more household and business waste

Our environment in facts and figures:

Each household in East Sussex created over 640kg of waste in 2009/10

64% of household waste in East Sussex was recycled, composted or used to create renewable electricity in 2009/10

37% of our household waste was landfilled

Waste analysis in East Sussex has shown that a third of what's left in the average dustbin is food waste, costing households around £420 every year

Waste costs businesses around 4% of their turnover

Three key issues for East Sussex:

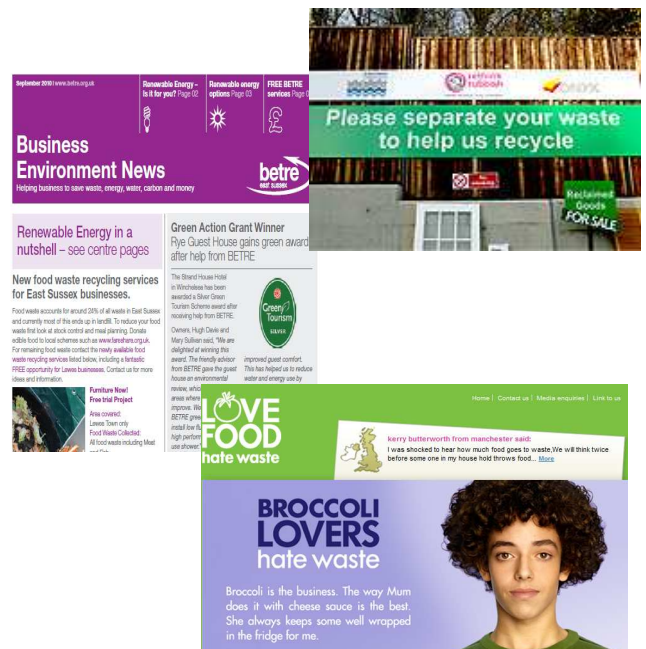
The need to reduce the amount of household waste we create and landfill, and increase levels of re-use, recycling & composting

Waste is still not widely regarded as a resource instead of a problem; too few materials are re-used products are not designed so that, after their main role has been served, they can be used for other purposes

There is a lack of data on commercial and industrial waste created in East Sussex, and a need to reduce waste from this sector, and increase its re-use, recycling and composting

Our objectives:

- Produce less household waste, and reuse, recycle and generate energy from the waste we do create using sustainable waste management technologies and facilities
- Help the business community to become more resource efficient and create less waste, and to reuse, recycle and compost more of its waste
- Reduce food and packaging waste and increase its recycling and composting (or anaerobic digestion), both from homes and catering establishments



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfill by TBC% and increase the percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting to 40% by 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils
We will investigate the feasibility of composting or anaerobic digestion of food waste from homes and businesses in East Sussex by December 2011	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils
We will produce a strategy for minimising commercial and industrial waste and increasing the amount of commercial and industrial waste that is re-used, recycled and composted, or which is used for energy recovery by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils

Environmental principle:

reduce the impact of travel on the environment and improve sustainable travel choices to access services and facilities within and between communities in the county

Our environment in facts and figures:

Transport accounts for around 30% of the county's CO₂ emissions and is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gases

Traffic levels in the county grew by 3% between 2003 and 2009

Walking trips in the county have increased by 23% since 2005/6 and cycling trips rose by 24% between 2006/7 and 2008/9

The wider environmental costs of air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and noise from UK transport are estimated to be between £8.7bn and £19.3bn per year

There are 70km of off-road cycle routes and 1000km of bridleways and Rights of Way available to cyclists

Our objectives:

- Increase sustainable travel choices through improvements to support public and community transport, walking, cycling and car-share and to promote the health benefits of walking and cycling
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, local air pollution and noise from transport
- Minimise the need to travel and improve access to jobs, education, health and other services through affordable and sustainable transport and technology-based solutions



Three key issues for East Sussex:

There is a need to improve sustainable and affordable travel choices such as walking, cycling, car sharing and car clubs, public and community transport, particularly where new housing and employment sites are developed and also in rural areas

Road traffic continues to have impacts on the environment and local communities through air pollution, noise, and the emission of greenhouse gases; this means that environmental and health costs (and the associated health inequalities) continue to affect the county

There is potential to reduce the need to travel by enabling people to access more services remotely and by encouraging working from home or from local centres through greater broadband coverage and faster connections



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will set new targets for the number of journeys undertaken by sustainable means by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will produce a long term integrated sustainable transport strategy (3rd Local Transport Plan) based on the local needs of East Sussex by June 2011	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will set a new target and start to implement measures for increasing the proportion of journeys made on foot, particularly for shorter journeys of up to 2 miles by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council

Environmental principle:

improve the quality of the environment and our health by reducing air and noise pollution

Our environment in facts and figures:

Air pollution reduces the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 6 months

The annual health costs of air pollution in the UK are between £4.5bn and £10bn, but there are no local estimates of health impacts

Levels of ground level ozone are some of the highest in the country

Government research shows tackling air pollution and climate change together could yield additional benefits of £24 billion by 2050

Scientific studies have provided evidence that persistent noise stress increases the risk of high blood pressure and heart disease

Our objectives:

- Ensure that measures to tackle climate change achieve maximum benefits for local air quality
- Meet national air quality objectives across the county and designate areas of tranquillity
- Seek reductions in rural ozone levels through central Government and EU action on the emissions that lead to ozone formation



Three key issues for East Sussex:

Air pollution from traffic exceeds national air quality objectives in some busy and congested locations in the county and traffic noise levels exceed national noise indicators along parts of our, major road network

There are opportunities to link up much better measures we take to reduce air pollution with those to tackle climate change in order to maximise the effectiveness of our actions

East Sussex has some of the highest levels of ozone in the country, which can damage our health, crops, and natural ecosystems



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will implement the Air Quality Action Plans for the A259 Bexhill Road & Lewes town centre and identify potential areas of tranquillity by March 2015	Lead: Sussex Air Quality Partnership
We will develop a package of Low Emissions Strategy (LES) measures for East Sussex to reduce emissions of air pollution and CO2 by March 2015	Lead: Sussex Air Quality Partnership
We will lobby central Government to further reduce emissions of pollutants at source which cause ground level ozone in East Sussex by March 2012	Lead: Sussex Air Quality Partnership

Environmental principle:

reduce the environmental impacts of food production and distribution, improve health through better diets and support the agricultural and food economy of the county

Our environment in facts and figures:

Food accounts for at least a fifth of UK greenhouse gas emissions

The UK is only 60% self-sufficient in food production

The number of Britain's farmers and farm workers has declined by 26 per cent over the past twenty years and 60,000 new entrants are needed in the farming industry in the UK in the next decade

800 village shops close each year in the UK

Only 33% of adults in East Sussex eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day

23% of adults and around 20% of reception year children were overweight or obese in 2007/8 in East Sussex

Our objectives:

- Support the transition to a low-carbon food production and distribution system, reduce carbon intensive fertilisers and animal feed from off-site, and make use of locally produced composts and digestate
- Increase opportunities for people in East Sussex to buy local, seasonal food, including through shops and markets in towns and villages in the county and increase the proportion of locally produced food in the public and hospitality sectors
- Increase the numbers of people and organisations growing food for their own consumption

Three key issues for East Sussex:

The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food production, distribution and wastage and make better use of natural resources

There is limited seasonal, local food in towns and villages and within the public sector (e.g. schools and across the county; increasing this could reduce the environmental impacts of distribution and shopping, support the local land-based economy, promote a better understanding of how food is grown, and support healthier eating

East Sussex, along with the rest of the UK, needs to become more self sufficient in the production of its own food – such as by meeting the increasing demand for people to grow their own food and protecting existing farmland from non-agricultural development



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will produce a Sustainable Food Action Plan for East Sussex containing further measures to move East Sussex towards a low carbon food county by July 2011	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will seek to increase the amount of local food available in town and village stores and markets in the county and increase the proportion of locally produced food in the public and hospitality sectors by March 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Action in Rural Sussex; Borough and District Councils
We will identify locations where people can grow more of their own food, for example in community allotments and through land-sharing by March 2011	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils

Environmental principle:

increase our understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the environment of East Sussex

Our environment in facts and figures:

Defra's 2009 survey on public attitudes and behaviours towards the environment found that the environment was the third most important priority for government behind the economy and unemployment

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers works with 628,000 volunteers a year

In the Big Vote 09 of issues of concern to young people in East Sussex, transport and the environment came first and second respectively and have become the 'campaign issues' for the newly elected Youth Cabinet 2009-2011

In East Sussex, just under half of all the people who volunteer are between 16 and 25

Three key issues for East Sussex:

The need to empower individuals and communities to take ownership of their local environment and the challenges it faces, to reconnect people with their environment, promote better understanding, awareness and valuing of the environment, and inspire greener behaviours

Harnessing and increasing locally the social return on investment in volunteering – estimated to be at least a 4:1 return on investment

Increasing health and wellbeing and re-integrating marginalised people back into society through practical environmental volunteering and engagement

Our objectives:

- Support and encourage volunteering, to allow people to get involved in their local open spaces, support conservation work, and develop new skills and experience
- Encourage people to enjoy, understand and take action to safeguard our natural environment for future generations and reconnect young people with nature to stimulate and educate them to be advocates for the natural environment in the future
- Support environmental networks and voluntary organisations to help create a shared understanding of environmental issues and jointly deliver environmental, social and financial benefits to the county, including through the provision public services



Action Plan

What we will do	Who will be responsible
We will support communities across the county to develop and share practical solutions to climate change and exploit renewable energy by March 2012	Lead: Environment Agency Partners: Climate Change Partnership for East Sussex
We will produce a Sustainable Schools Strategy to support teachers in starting a life-long awareness about the environment among young people by July 2011	Lead: East Sussex County Council
We will identify opportunities to support communities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to deliver more waste prevention plans and implement community waste management schemes by December 2012	Lead: East Sussex County Council Partners: Borough and District Councils

Consultation questions

[To be completed]

Picture credits

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Orange boat at Bulverhythe, Hastings by Barbara Ashby from East Sussex in Pictures (www.eastsussex.gov.uk)
Bluebells at Hailsham Picture by Rosie Hibbs from East Sussex in Pictures (www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

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Lunch at Vinehall School, (Permission for reproduction to be sought prior to publication)

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