

**Councillor Louise Pepper**

**Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Green Issues; Equalities**

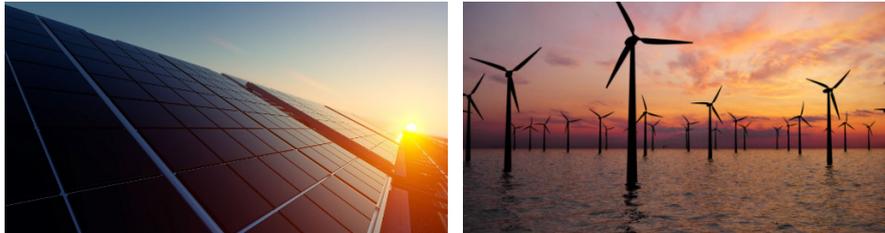
**Full Council report - 19 July 2022**

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***Environment & Green Issues July 2022 update***

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*“The world does not need to choose between solving the energy crisis and climate crisis, we can do both.”*



The world now had cheap alternatives available in the form of solar and wind power, which had plummeted in price. This should prompt governments and companies to push harder for renewable energy.

***Investing in large new oil and gas developments, would have little impact on the current energy crisis and soaring fuel prices but spell devastation to the planet.***

Big new exploratory projects for oil, gas and coal would take years to produce any fuel and could lock in high greenhouse gas emissions for decades.

The **UN Secretary General António Guterres** has called for an end to new fossil fuel projects, warning that climate change posed, *“an existential threat to us all – to the whole world. Main emitters must drastically cut emissions, starting now. This means accelerating the end of our fossil fuel addiction and speeding up the deployment of clean renewable energy.”*

**UTTLESFORD CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

**NET ZERO COUNCIL**

**Little Canfield**



Our new council office in Little Canfield has a new vehicle recycling water wash facility installed, PV panels are placed on top of the new vehicle workshop, EV charging points installed, bird & bat boxes, tree & hedge planting, and indoor recycling bins.

**CLIMATE £1M COUNCIL FUNDING**

To assist with delivering our ambitious climate crisis action plan and the exciting Market Town Air Quality project in Saffron Walden, we are recruiting additional staff. This will include improving our ecologist capacity to help ensure

that we maximise opportunities around Biodiversity Net Gain. We are exploring ways to highlight issues that are critical to the district, such as the impact of drought and water abstraction on chalk streams.

We are developing a Community Environment Grant Scheme (something similar to our ward initiative scheme), enabling communities to push their own initiatives forward, this might include for local green projects like EV charging points, replacing LED lighting and biodiversity enhancements.

## AIR QUALITY/TRANSPORT

**Surface transport is responsible for 70% of our carbon emissions as a district.**

UDC's DEFRA AQ grant of £517,124 to deliver a novel Market Town Clean Air Initiative in Saffron Waldon, was featured in article in the East Anglia Bylines about our pilot project to improve air quality, boost health outcomes and support our climate change strategy.

Fully electric car sales grew substantially to 12% in 2021 but fossil fuel vehicles remain the most common choice of new cars and vans today and are likely to make up nearly half of new sales between now and 2030.

Evidence has shown that **MANY** medical conditions are exacerbated at times of peak levels of pollutants caused by heavy road traffic.



<https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/essex-town-fighting-poor-air-quality/>

## BIODIVERSITY

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and the loss of our wild spaces means that bees do not have the nature they need to thrive. One-third of the UK's bee population has disappeared over the past decade- **yet 75% of the world's food supply relies on pollinators**. The need for more wild nature has never been more evident.

### Dunmow bypass



Nature has a natural way of regenerating itself. During the summer months, UDC leaves roadside verges for rewilding and when we do mow in September/October, flowers should have had a chance to shed their seeds and verges should look even better the following year. Dunmow bypass is evidence of this.

## ENERGY

## Housing energy use is responsible for 18% of our carbon emissions as a district.

In 2021, UDC was awarded government funding totalling £1,268,000 from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme - LAD2 £249k & LAD3 £919k, from the BEIS Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy grant for energy efficiency grants up to £10,000 for low-income households.

The government offered a Green Homes Grant voucher scheme in Autumn 2020 however, it was scrapped six months later. Most homeowners were eligible for vouchers up to £5,000 and low-income households could receive up to £10,000. The LAD scheme (please see above) aims to raise the energy efficiency of low-income households. The Energy Hub managing the LAD2 project has been hit by delays, not only in the scheme commencing but also barriers with retrofit assessments and available supply chain. This scheme ends at the end of June 2022. However, they are seeking an extension. A transition into the Sustainable Warmth Scheme LAD3, will be delivered by the managing agent - Warmworks. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5769/Grants-and-assistance-for-householders>

## WASTE

On June 28<sup>th</sup> our Assistant Director for Environmental Services attended a GAP (Governance, Audit & Performance), committee meeting to provide a waste and recycling presentation.

Here is some of the information that was discussed.

KPI 14 Percentage of waste sent for recycling or composting

- 51.60% against a target of 52%
- Consistently around 50% for last 5 years

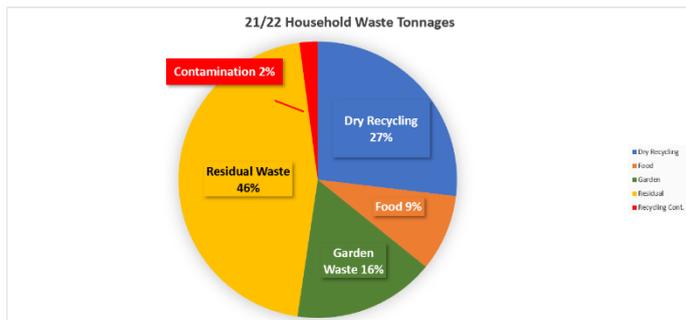
PI 34 Residual waste per household

- 400kgs per household against a target of 395kgs
- Slowly but consistently increasing

SI 08 Percentage of contamination

- 7.5% over last year – 18kgs per household.

### High level waste composition

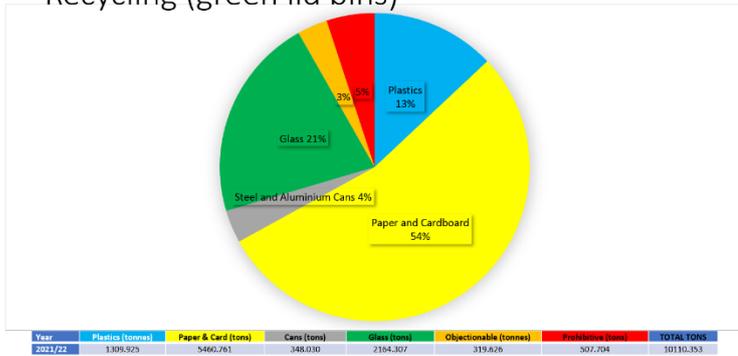


Contamination on overall waste arisings is 2%. Over the year the amount of contaminated waste produced by residents (**800 tonnes in total**) is equal to 44Kg of waste per household.

### Recycling Trends

The quantity of food waste generated within the district has grown and thought to be connected to changing consumer habits during and after the pandemic.

## Recycling (green lid bins)



This pie chart above shows break down of materials by weight. One of the challenges of waste management relates to having weight-based targets, if this pie chart showed volume, plastics would be the largest segments and glass one of the smallest. This chart also shows the split between Objectionable materials (that are recycled) and Prohibitive (not recycled)

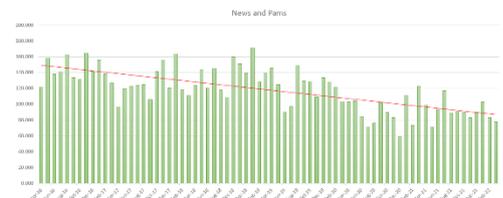
Cardboard trends



Glass recycling



Newspapers and magazines



**Cardboard** - this graph shows the gradual increase in cardboard recycling per week we have seen since 2016. This increase averages at about 100 tonnes per month or about 20 dust carts full. The amount of cardboard packaging materials has increased because of more online shopping.

**Glass** - The amount of home drinking has increased (probably down to more people working from home) but the weight collected has dropped slightly. This is due to product light weighting which is a result of companies trying to reduce their packaging (they are legally required to).

**Newspapers & magazines** - 60 Tonnes per month reduction over last 5 years but even more over the last 10 years. This has been largely down to most newspapers and some magazines moving online.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle e-newsletter

The latest edition of our newly launched Reduce, Reuse, Recycle e-newsletter is available now.



This month's topics include information on keeping recycling clean, [Blueprint to a Circular Economy](#) and the garden waste collection scheme, as well as links to lots of useful resources.

Residents can sign up to receive the newsletters here: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keep-me-posted](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keep-me-posted).

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

As a council, we want to aim to be as robust as possible and we will look at what other councils are doing to achieve best planning practice and we will include good local development examples in Uttlesford.

Burns Way in Thaxted (see below), is one good example where the section 106 has been turned into natural rewilding for the next 20 years and all homes (around 65), have solar panels.

### Burns Way Thaxted



Another example is a large development in Dunmow, where they have agreed 27% net biodiversity gain and they work alongside RSPB, which also help with the declining swift population by installing swift bricks.

ECC are working on a Developers' Charter and an action plan which aims to gain their commitment (for example), show homes and showcasing good (towards) net zero examples.

The County has just established a new Climate and Planning Unit which is setting up a network group initially for officers involved in climate Change with key districts in the first instance. The first meeting is the first start in setting up a raft of support to districts in both policy work, developer negotiations and development management.

## GLOBAL EMISSIONS KEEP RISING



<https://www.globalwarmingindex.org/>

With its own carbon advisor (CCC), warning that only two fifths of its carbon reduction plans are credible, it's clear that the UK government is falling woefully short on both honouring international climate change commitments and meeting its legally binding carbon targets.

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2022-progress-report-to-parliament/>

Clean energy investment is up but so is coal. There was a 20% rise in 2021 and 10% is expected in 2022 and this is likely to continue in 2023. Only 5% of investment made by the oil industry goes into green investment. If you wish to learn more about the energy crisis and world investment, I highly recommend watching the World Energy Investment 2022 webinar.

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## Equalities July 2022 update

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*Cllr Louise Pepper, Portfolio holder for Environment and Green Issues, Equalities said, "It's important to be resolute in our commitment in tackling hatred, intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination in all forms and become a more united world because survivors of terrible atrocities carry a lifetime of pain and suffering."*

### • Community Listening Events

- Exploring with district secondary schools their engagement with our next theme LGBTQ+ - provisional meeting arranged with SWCHS for 20<sup>th</sup> July. Both Helena Romanes and Joyce Frankland have expressed an interest in discussing the event too.
- Commemoration of Srebrenica <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7929/Srebrenica-Memorial-Day-11-July> will be shared on the UDC website (please see above).
- National Pride month <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pride-month>
- Essex Equality Network met on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 scheduled to meet again September 2022
- Essex Faith Covenant met 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022, scheduled to meet again on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Annual Faith Covenant event to be hosted by Epping Forest District Council November 2022
- Drafting a business case to develop an Equality Health Impact Assessment workshop for SMT, working alongside Hayley Bennett to deliver the workshop sessions
- Exploring the possibility of training for Menopause Mentors with OTBM
- Draft Menopause Policy to be shared with SMT/CMT

### Armed Forces Covenant

- The application for the ERS (Employer recognition Scheme) Silver Award submitted, awaiting outcome from MOD July 2022
- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Flag raising for Armed Forces Day & successful Family Fun Day on SW Common hosted by Carver Barracks 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Army Community Group met 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022
- Armed Forces Covenant NEW Induction AFC e-learning module for LA's – shared with HR colleagues for consideration

**Thank you**  
**Cllr Pepper**



**One planet one race**