



March 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY

www.cambshia.org



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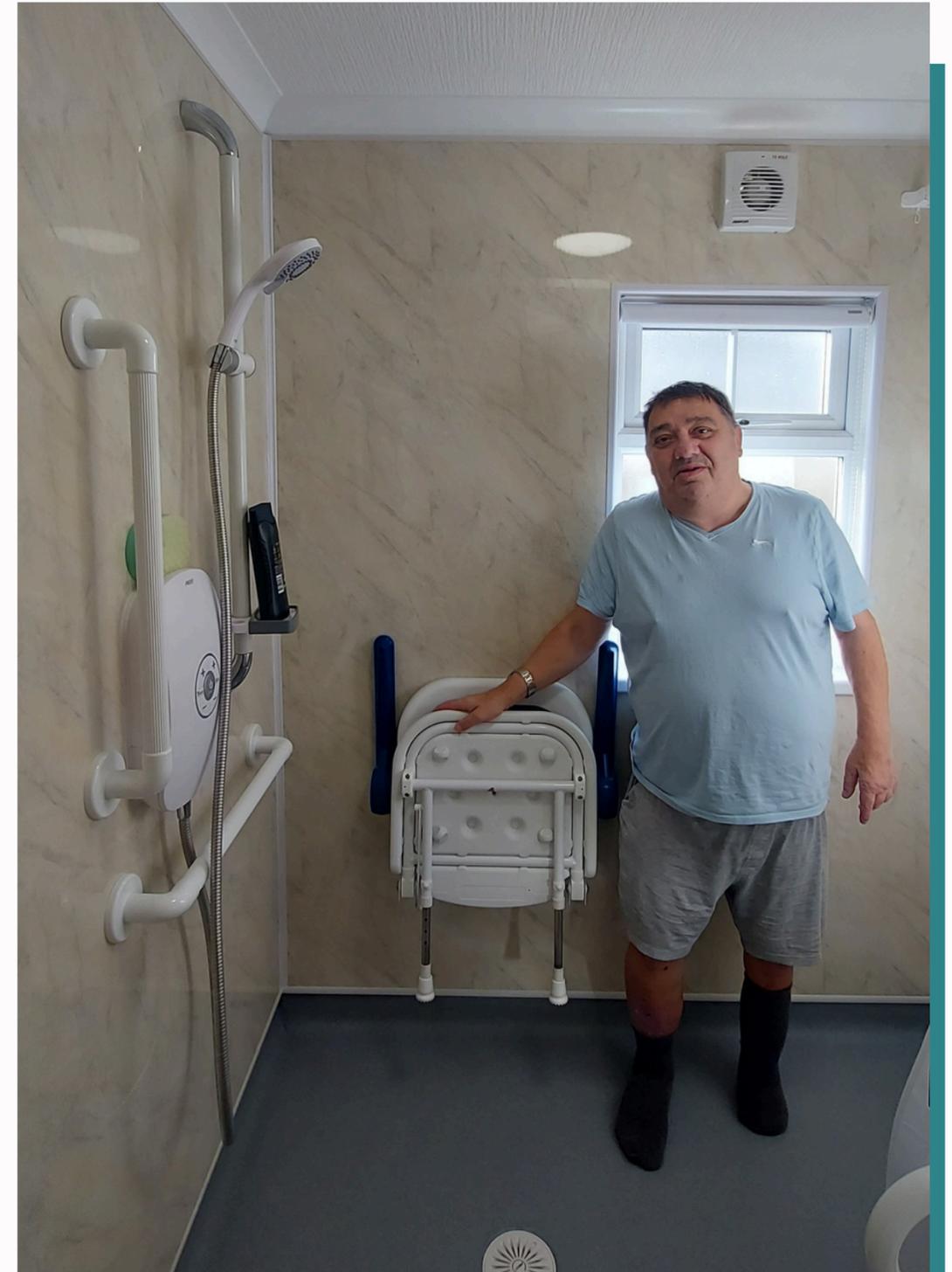
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Background

Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency is a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, and South Cambridgeshire District Council. We provide advice, support and assistance to residents to help them repair, improve, maintain and adapt their homes to meet their changing needs. The purpose of the service is to help people, especially older adults, people with disabilities and vulnerable people remain independent, warm, and secure in their own homes.

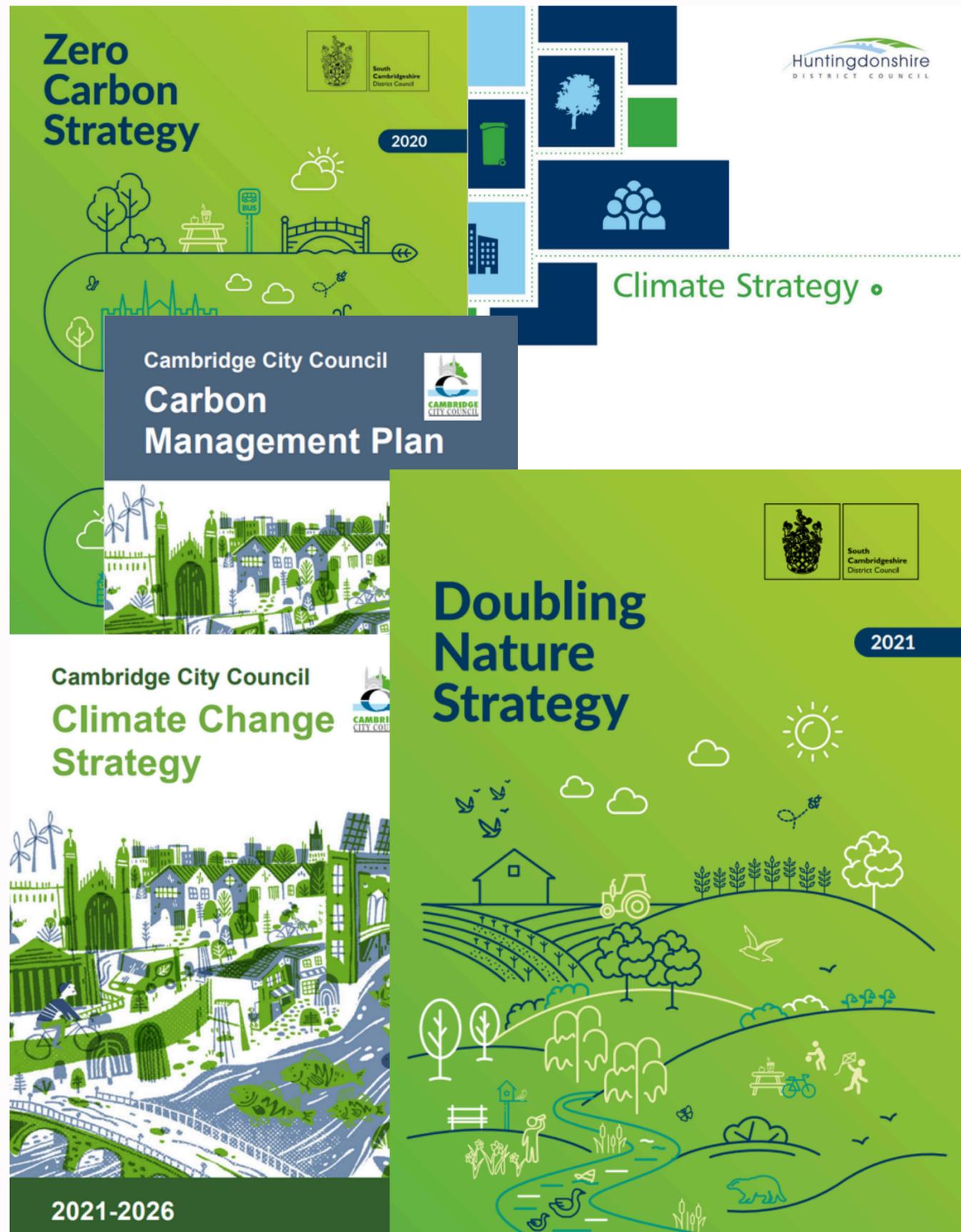
In the face of global climate change and loss of nature, the three councils that we work with have set ambitious goals to reduce their emissions, encourage environmental sustainability, reduce waste and pave the way for nature recovery.



As a public service, we're committed to ensuring sustainability while providing top-quality home adaptation and repair services to our communities, aligning environmental responsibility with our mission of enhancing homes and lives in Cambridgeshire. However, as a fee-earning service and working with a range of clients with limited means, we are also constrained to balance our environmental aspirations with financial feasibility. As costs rise, our ability to make more environmentally friendly decisions is limited by the grant limit.

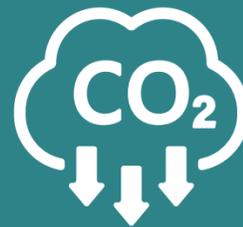
By implementing this strategy, we aim to contribute to the wider environmental sustainability goals of local and national government, and work collaboratively with relevant partners to play our part in creating a sustainable future for our communities.





Councils' Goals

The three councils we work with have set ambitious goals related to environmental sustainability, emissions reduction and nature recovery. The broad thematic goals of the three councils fall under these four categories:



Carbon Neutrality: Commit to achieving net-zero carbon emissions through significant reductions in their carbon footprints and strategies to offset emissions.



Energy Transition: Shift towards energy efficient and renewable energy sources through improvements in energy usage in council buildings, and the wider community, and the adoption of renewable energy technologies.





Sustainable Services: Embed sustainability across all services offered through the councils such as transport, waste management, housing, community services, etc. ensuring that all council activities contribute to their environmental goals.



Nature Conservation and Enhancement: Emphasise the need to protect and enhance local biodiversity through strategies to increase wildlife-rich habitats, tree coverage, and access to green spaces, contributing to both nature recovery and community wellbeing.



Our Role

In line with the broader environmental goals of the councils, Cambs HIA contributes to sustainability efforts by incorporating eco-friendly practices into our home improvement services, aligning our own environmental objectives with our agency's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Our Environmental Objectives



1) Implement energy-efficient and sustainable practices in home improvement projects in collaboration with contractors, residents and other partners to reduce the environmental footprint of home adaptations and repairs.



2) Incorporate eco-friendly materials and construction techniques, where financially feasible, to minimise environmental impact during home adaptations and repairs.



3) Promote environmentally sustainable practices within our office operations and amongst team members.



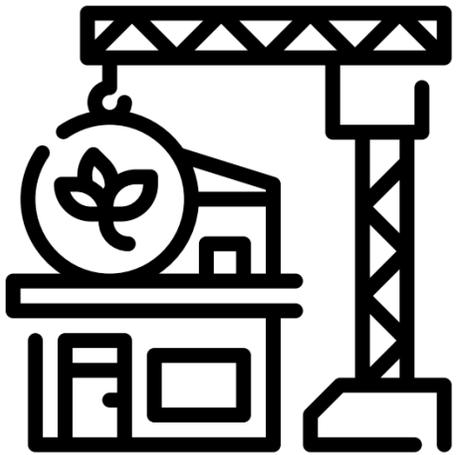
4) In collaboration with partner organisations, raise awareness amongst residents about the importance of environmental sustainability, encouraging them to adopt energy-saving behaviours and eco-friendly practices.



Strategic Actions

Environmentally Friendly Adaptations and Repairs.

1. Conduct Energy Performance Certificate checks for all home visits to assess energy efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement.
2. Offer grants for energy efficiency improvements to residents, encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly measures such as insulation upgrades and energy-efficient adaptations.
3. Integrate environmental policy and positive actions into our procurement processes for larger projects, prioritising sustainable materials, minimising travel, and reducing carbon emissions.
4. Ensure that home adaptations and repairs projects are designed to meet Building Control regulations for thermal insulation and energy efficiency standards, promoting sustainable construction practices.





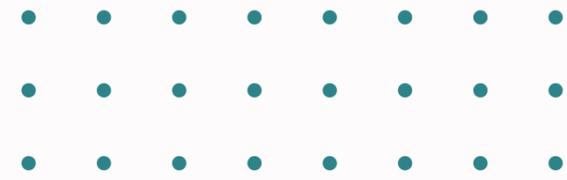
Sustainability in the office and operations.

1. Reduce meeting related emissions by utilising digital methods such as video-conferencing and online working wherever possible.
2. Implement paperless workflows and digital documentation to minimise printing and paper usage.
3. Optimise energy use by turning off lights, computers, and other equipment when not in use.

Raising awareness collaboratively

1. Organise and participate in educational workshops and seminars on energy-saving practices, recycling, and other environmentally friendly behaviors.
2. Collaborate with local community groups, charities, statutory organisations and businesses to disseminate information and promote eco-friendly initiatives through joint campaigns and events.





To find out more, get in touch.



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