

## SDNP Climate Change Action Plan – 2025-26

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME I – JOINT ADVOCACY AND DELIVERY WITH THE UK NATIONAL PARKS

Objective	Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Joint Advocacy and delivery with the UK National Park and National Landscape family.</p>	<p>To include :-</p> <p><b>National Delivery Plan (Update)</b></p> <p><b>Comms</b></p> <p><b>Scope 3 work</b></p> <p><b>CC Action Plan template</b></p> <p><b>Spatial Targeting work</b></p>	<p><b>CHRIS FAIRBROTHER</b></p> <p>Defra, DESNZ, National Parks England, Protected Landscapes Partnership, National Landscapes Association, National Trails UK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK National Parks to promote their leadership role on climate change as part of the UN ‘Race to Zero’ programme. Deliver a communications campaign to highlight the success of the joint application to the UN Ambassadors programme. Demonstrate the value of investing in the UK Parks to deliver climate action with case study examples for Defra and other key external audiences.</li> <li>• Work with the wider Protected Landscapes family to establish a model for integrating adaptation planning and risk management into the statutory Management Plan review process from 2025 onwards.</li> <li>• Update CC Risk Assessment and adaptation plan for the SDNP area. Ensure the high-level risks are addressed through our PMP and Local Plan policies and delivery.</li> <li>• Review feedback from first round of the reporting and the guidance on ‘Aiming for A’. Develop this as a common framework for reporting through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).</li> <li>• Develop an CC Action Plan template with interim (2030) targets – ensure this is CDP compliant and in line with latest Defra PMP guidance.</li> <li>• Complete CDP reporting for 2024/25 (July-September reporting window). Put in place data support for NPAs to complete the questionnaire to the required standard.</li> </ul>
<p>Research, Evidence &amp; Monitoring</p>	<p>Develop better data on carbon storage by land use or habitat type, to make informed choices on land use change.</p> <p>Develop a greater understanding of how to maximise carbon storage through biodiversity projects. Develop case studies of nature based and adaptation solutions.</p> <p>Research and monitor climate change impacts and trends.</p> <p>Develop research agenda and links with national level research bodies.</p>	<p><b>RESEARCH &amp; EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>National Parks England, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.</p> <p>National Research Bodies: LWEC, NERC and CEH. Research Hub and Universities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more in-depth analysis of the action needed to decarbonise sector by sector (land cover, energy, transport, food and drink etc.) and detailed implementation plans for specific sectors and/or land-use change scenarios.</li> <li>• Develop climate risk/vulnerability mapping for landscape features, habitats, species and local communities across the SDNPA</li> <li>• Update the SDNPA risk assessment in line with the latest UK Government guidance on Climate Change Adaptation reporting (ARP4)</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 2 – WORKING OUR CONSTITUENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Work with our Local Authority (LA) partners on Climate Change actions. Support and add value to their work through the delivery of our Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>Deliver the Innovate UK funded 'Pathfinder Parks project as part of the 'Future Ready' programme through to July 2025.</p> <p>Work with our constituent local authorities to address barriers to delivery and accelerate progress towards Net Zero.</p> <p>Work to establish common metrics and targets that make a clear contribution to delivering national and locally based targets.</p>	<p><b>SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners</b> <b>CHRIS FAIRBROTHER/SARA OSMAN</b></p> <p>OnePlanet, Climate Change Leads in Local Planning Authorities, Sector Partners such as South-East Climate Action (SECA), Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the OnePlanet platform to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Support work to embed climate action in new strategic authority plans, which are evolving through the new local government reorganisation and devolution.</li> <li>➢ Create an 'Ecosystem' plan for the SDNP with shared priorities and trackable sustainability measures.</li> <li>➢ Coordinate activity on climate change and nature recovery between the SDNPA, Local Authority, sector partners and stakeholders.</li> <li>➢ Work with the local authorities, sector partners and community groups to support more joined-up delivery and collaborative working.</li> <li>➢ Develop an area-based Climate Strategy/Net Zero plan for the SDNPA that bridges gaps and connects activity at local, district and National Park level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➢ Identify additional opportunities for external funding bids to support climate actions.</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 3 – MEETING A 2030 'NET ZERO' TARGET FOR THE SDNPA

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Improving the SDNPA's sustainable performance - becoming Net Zero as an organisation by 2030.</p>	<p>Deliver effective carbon emission reductions for the SDNPA and monitor progress towards the organisations 2030 target.</p> <p>Develop a localised offsetting option for the SDNPA with key partners, where our GHG emissions cannot be reduced.</p> <p>Oversee the application of the SDNPAs sustainability policy – through its operations, estate and procurement activities.</p> <p>Support SDNPA staff and members to be carbon literate and to understand our collective role in carbon emission reductions.</p> <p><b>Note : These actions and activities specifically relate to the Net Zero target for the National Park Authority as an organisation – in terms of its operations and estate.</b></p>	<p><b>SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners</b> <b>CORPORATE SERVICES (TBC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the SDNPAs carbon performance against its emission reduction targets. Continue to report on this as a Corporate Plan priority.</li> <li>• Continue to work through SDNPA Sustainability Action Plan, making progress on outcomes towards 2030 target.</li> <li>• Develop an internal programme of carbon literacy training for SDNPA staff and members. Include the development of bespoke training package for staff on sector-based carbon where this is required.</li> <li>• Introduction of new benefit for staff - Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice and Heat Scheme (a non-taxable benefit that will advise staff on how to reduce their home heating bills, provide a more comfortable home environment whilst also reducing carbon emissions) in May 2025</li> <li>• Re-promotion of Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme when new benefits above are launched.</li> <li>• Develop an offsetting scheme with the Cowdray Estate, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust via a Woodland Carbon Code accredited scheme. Investigate the potential for the SDNPA to become carbon positive in advance of the 2030 target.</li> </ul>

**CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 4 – DELIVERING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH THE PLANNING SYSTEM.**

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
Working with our constituent Local Planning Authorities through the duty to co-operate.	Deliver climate action, adaptation and sustainability through the planning system	<b>PLANNING SERVICES (with support from CPM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will work closely with our neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, under the ‘Duty to Cooperate’, to develop joint working on strategic and/or cross boundary themes.</li> <li>• Through our Local Plan Review, this will include the ‘mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.’ This will include working cooperatively on developing a shared-evidence base and metrics and targets.</li> <li>• Emergency planning - Scope what climate change resilience work is underway with LA partners and how will this be dealt with in the context of devolution and Local Government review.</li> </ul>
Tackling climate change through the role of the SDNPA’s Planning Function	<p>Embed the principle of both Biodiversity Net Gain within the planning system through SDNP Local Plan strategic policies.</p> <p>Use existing Local Plan policies to influence positive impact on landscape character and ecosystem function.</p> <p>Promote green corridors, high quality green spaces and street trees within the urban environment to improve capacity for regulating air quality, and managing climate change impacts at a local level.</p>	<p><b>PSMT</b></p> <p>Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Review of the South Downs Local Plan.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Start the assessment of evidence requirements for the review.</li> <li>➢ Start/commission evidence work.</li> <li>➢ Prepare LPR 2024-25 and run Regulation 18/19 consultation.</li> <li>➢ Adopt LPR 2025-26.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop clear guidance/ signposting to information to help homeowners and developers know what retrofit measures can be done under permitted development and when planning advice/ permission should be sought.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Construction – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<p>Promote energy efficiency and sustainable building standards in terms of building design, materials and site layout.</p> <p>Implementation and monitor the delivery of our policy and SPD to understand their contribution to our emission reduction targets.</p> <p>Identify strategic/local sites for BNG and for community-based renewables.</p>	<p><b>MARK WALLER-GUTIERREZ</b></p> <p>MHCLG, Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work (including collating evidence and responding to consultees) to carry over Regulation 18 Consultation Local Plan Review Climate Change and Sustainable Construction policy changes to Regulation 19 stage, and onwards to adoption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Maximum space heating targets</li> <li>➢ Maximum building energy use targets</li> <li>➢ Net zero (operational) buildings (renewable energy to match energy demand on site)</li> <li>➢ Ban on fossil fuel energy generation in new buildings</li> <li>➢ Maximum targets for ‘up front’ (pre-construction and construction stages) embodied carbon emissions for major developments</li> <li>➢ Reduced maximum mains water consumption</li> <li>➢ Strengthened sustainable drainage and green infrastructure requirements</li> <li>➢ Post Occupancy Evaluation of major schemes to assess actual performance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Draft Revision of Sustainable Construction SPD to support and interpret revised policies.</li> <li>• Run a series of ‘Future Energy Landscape’ workshops to explore opportunities for SDNP communities to consider the benefits of community-based renewables and to develop local solutions.</li> <li>• Embodied carbon in planning and development – Work to understand the carbon impact of planning decisions and development proposals within the National Park area. Develop a way that this can be tracked and accounted for as part of the National Parks Net-Zero targets.</li> </ul>

**CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 5 – WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DELIVER CLIMATE ACTION.**

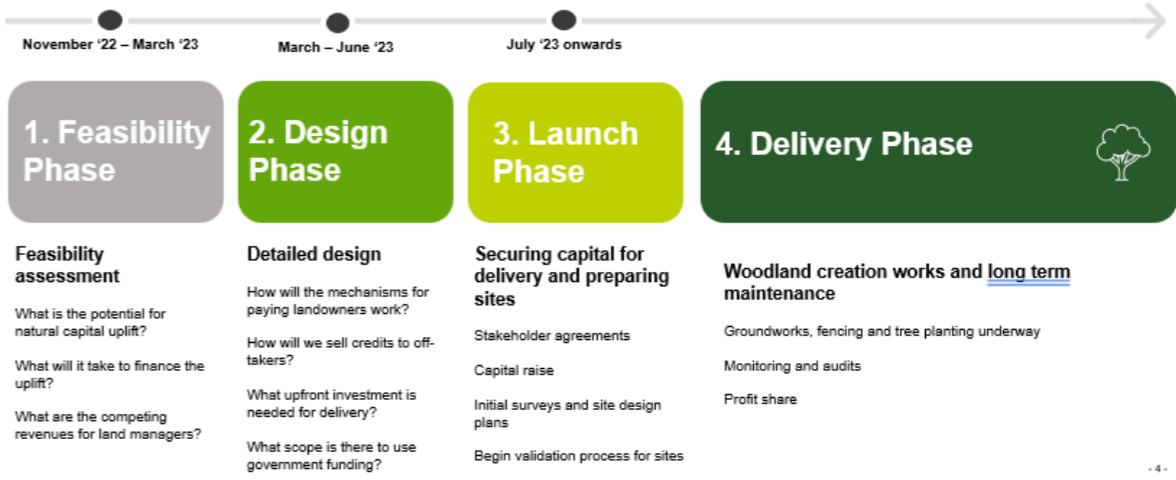
Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Helping to develop resilient communities.</p>	<p>Support Town and Parish Councils to become a central point for sharing best practice/advice with local residents on making a positive contribution to climate change action.</p> <p>Encourage local action within parishes and other community groups that supports the delivery of wider climate change targets.</p> <p>Work with a small number of pilot communities to establish the carbon emissions of their own operations. Establish action plans to improve energy performance.</p> <p>Encourage communities to use their CIL receipt and other sources of funding to improve their own environmental performance and contribute to their wider parish carbon reductions.</p>	<p><b>SARA OSMAN</b> Community Energy South, Petersfield Climate Action Network, Worthing Climate Action Network, South-East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help build the capacity of communities to develop projects that reduce carbon emissions, generate renewable energy and protect nature. Support the climate action networks to help make local parishes and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Develop the Knowledge Hub to support the exchange of learning and best practice from current Climate Action projects to other SDNPA communities.</li> <li>• Scope the potential for developing a ‘climate pledge’ for parishes and community groups who would want to support delivery and help achieve SDNPA climate actions and Net Zero targets.</li> <li>• Deliver an in-person climate event for local parish and community climate action groups. Identify further training opportunities for community groups.</li> <li>• Develop a Climate Change Communications Plan and campaign</li> </ul>
<p>Developing community energy schemes within the South Downs National Park.</p>	<p>Develop a network of Climate Change ‘Champions’ to promote best practice and deliver local training and support.</p> <p>Focus on communities that are keen to make rapid transition to a low-carbon future. Use these communities as exemplars for others to learn from and follow.</p> <p>Ensure local communities and businesses can access benefits from delivering carbon storage, renewable energy generation and other low carbon activity.</p> <p>Encourage uptake of micro-generation and community based renewable projects that minimises the impact on the South Downs landscape.</p>	<p><b>SARA OSMAN</b> Community Energy groups, Local Authority Partners, Renewable Energy Companies, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Transition Town Groups, Parish Councils and Landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for communities in the early stages of considering community energy schemes by responding to enquiries, providing project and group development support and support for funding applications.</li> <li>• Provide mentoring and advice to early adopters and for local communities considering renewable and retrofit projects – through to the submission of external funding bids.</li> <li>• Continue to support best practice and advice to Parishes and local communities across the NPA – through working with our community energy groups.</li> <li>• Encourage Parishes and Community Groups to use CIL to fund Climate Action such as new greenspace, woodland planting or community-based renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 6 – CLIMATE ACTION FUND PROJECT

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
Community Lottery - Climate Action Fund Bid (Ouse Valley Climate Action Project)	<p>Bring together community groups and organisations, over a 3 year delivery period, focussing on those least engaged and underserved communities. Support them to take community-led action around 3 core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature Recovery and Climate Resilience</li> <li>- People’s Knowledge and Skills</li> <li>- Greener Energy and Travel</li> </ul> <p>Collaborate with specialists in monitoring and evaluation, behaviour change and carbon accounting to create a legacy of knowledge, tools and transferable solutions.</p> <p>Apply learning from the project to inform community-based climate action efforts across SDNPA.</p>	<p><b>STEPHANIE MILLS &amp; OVCA PROJECT TEAM</b></p> <p>South Downs National Park Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Lewes District Council, Sussex Community Development Association, Ovesco, Community Energy South, 3VA, Seaford Community Partnership, Transition Town Lewes, Railway Land Wildlife Trust.</p>	<p><b>Year 2024/2025 Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continue programme of community-based nature recovery and interventions.</li> <li>➤ Continue programme of public sustainability and information sessions – building capacity and facilitating behaviour change/positive action.</li> <li>➤ Provision of training programme for community groups and individuals - enhancing knowledge and skills around climate action and nature recovery.</li> <li>➤ Focus on youth involvement and youth voice (forest school provision at primary level, youth forum/network at secondary level, active travel)</li> <li>➤ Working with community groups to achieve impactful and measurable outcomes around behaviour change and carbon accounting.</li> <li>➤ Further stakeholder mapping to ensure outreach to underserved communities.</li> <li>➤ Expansion of energy team’s ‘Climate and Energy Champions’ via match funding.</li> <li>➤ Collaboration with key partners, organisations and aligned projects/activities - knowledge sharing, key learning, identifying opportunities to work together to maximise funding and resources.</li> <li>➤ Creating legacy plan for community groups/future funding.</li> <li>➤ Review and apply lessons learned from the project across the SDNPA.</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 7 – DELIVERING ‘NET ZERO WITH NATURE’ – RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITH NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS.

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
Developing a Nature Recovery Network (NRN)	<p>Increase habitat connectivity and the permeability of the landscape to wildlife.</p> <p>Demonstrate how nature-based solutions can help develop resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.</p> <p>Increase the quality and habitat diversity of wildlife sites. Deliver large-scale habitat creation where opportunities exist, create buffer zones for vulnerable or fragmented habitats.</p> <p>Increase the understanding of climate change and its impacts on the priority habitat and species within the South Downs National Park.</p> <p>Encourage naturally functioning floodplains and sustainable urban drainage schemes that help deliver natural flood management and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p><b>CLAIRE KERR</b></p> <p>Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife &amp; Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, SE Nature Partnership, Farmers and Landowners, Local Planning Authorities, SEEPL/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a coherent Nature Recovery Network for the National Park, in collaboration with LNPs/ LNRS development with the relevant authorities and other partner bodies.</li> <li>• Develop habitat carbon monitoring to track the contribution of the Nature Recovery programme.</li> <li>• Ensure the High-level targets align so we understand the contribution nature recovery projects will make to our overall carbon reductions and Net-Zero targets.</li> <li>• Adaptive Management work – Review of Climate Risks and Vulnerability of habitats, landscape features and protected sites. Develop of long-term adaptive management strategies for sites based on RAD principle4s (Resist, Adapt, Direct).</li> <li>• Green finance - develop projects that can trial new funding mechanisms to support nature recovery and Nature based Solutions to Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Palladium/Revere Partnership - pilot projects</li> <li>➤ Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) pilot - local/strategic sites</li> <li>➤ Conservation Covenant Agreements</li> <li>➤ ELMS (Landscape Recovery pilot, Local Nature Recovery tier)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tackling climate change through new woodland planting	<p>Identify the best carbon storage options for the South Downs National Park that provide the widest range of ecosystem service benefits. Enhance the capacity for carbon storage and sequestration at a landscape scale.</p>	<p>Natural England, Wildlife &amp; Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, SD Forestry Champions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream the woodland opportunity mapping and identify areas with the best potential for new woodland planting across the National Park.</li> <li>• Carry out more detailed site assessments to identify the best opportunities, and to screen out unsuitable sites.</li> </ul>

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
	Produce guidance on the 'right tree in the right place' to help inform the design of good planting schemes that meet carbon targets and enhance the landscape quality of the South Downs National Park.	Partnership, Local Planning Authorities, Forestry Commission, Forestry England and Forest Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop carbon mapping for other habitats and land cover across the National Park to identify the best nature-based carbon storage and sequestration options park-wide.</li> </ul>
South Downs Woodland Carbon Platform	<p>Design a mechanism that enables both land managers and tenant farmers of all landholding sizes that are interested in planting trees to access competitive, long-term payments for woodland creation with minimum bureaucracy.</p> <p>The platform will be able to <b>sell carbon credits from the new South Downs woodland to high-integrity buyers</b>, while providing diversified revenues for the land managers and delivering nature enhancement in the south of England.</p>	<b>NICK HEASMAN/ MARK ALDEN/ PALLADIUM</b>	 <p><b>1. Feasibility Phase</b>  <b>Feasibility assessment</b>      What is the potential for natural capital uplift?      What will it take to finance the uplift?      What are the competing revenues for land managers?</p> <p><b>2. Design Phase</b>  <b>Detailed design</b>      How will the mechanisms for paying landowners work?      How will we sell credits to off-takers?      What upfront investment is needed for delivery?      What scope is there to use government funding?</p> <p><b>3. Launch Phase</b>  <b>Securing capital for delivery and preparing sites</b>      Stakeholder agreements      Capital raise      Initial surveys and site design plans      Begin validation process for sites</p> <p><b>4. Delivery Phase</b>  <b>Woodland creation works and long term maintenance</b>      Groundworks, fencing and tree planting underway      Monitoring and audits      Profit share</p> <p>Key outcomes from the delivery phase of the project :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully secure funding from investors</li> <li>Sign up 3-5 landowners committed to woodland planting in Tranche 1 to be planted within 25/26 financial year.</li> <li>Commence trading of woodland carbon to voluntary buyers including SME's, traditional partners, large corporates.</li> <li>Work with Sussex Local Authorities to establish a co-operative approach to pooling funds to purchase carbon credits on an 'up-front' basis.</li> </ul>

**CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 8 – SUPPORTING THE LAND-BASED SECTORS.**

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Support the transition to a low-carbon economy for the land-based sectors.</p>	<p>Work closely with sector partners who have also declared net zero ambitions, particularly the NFU (2040), National Trust (2030) and Environment Agency (2030).</p> <p>Promote uptake of high precision or low-input farming techniques so that the application of nitrate fertilisers does not result in excess nutrients passing into the aquifers at key times of recharge (Autumn/Winter).</p> <p>Encourage sustainable land management that protects the environmental assets and ecosystem services of the South Downs National Park while maintaining the profitability of farming.</p> <p>Encourage land management practices that maintain the structural and microbial condition of soils and maximise its ability to store water and nutrients - especially in areas that are prone to erosion or more susceptible to drought conditions.</p> <p>Encourage land management practices that support pollinators and the use of natural pest controls or pest resistant crop species to reduce the need for pesticide use.</p>	<p><b>NIGEL JAMES</b></p> <p>NFU, CLA, Farm Clusters and FC Facilitators, Research Bodies (NERC, CEH), Statutory Agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the potential to support regional and local area sector resilience plans where objectives and actions align with our own Adaptation Plan.</li> <li>• Maximise the potential of projects funded through FiPL to help to contribute towards climate change/net-zero targets.</li> <li>• The Aquifer Partnership (TAP) - Promote to farmers and land managers new guide to Natural Flood Management measures (produced with EA and Sussex Flow initiative). Continue to promote nitrate reduction and trial additional measures.</li> <li>• Ensure that the Local nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery Tiers of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) deliver projects and outcomes that contribute towards climate change/net zero targets in the future.</li> <li>• Pasture and Profit – Pasture for Life continue to work with farmers and land managers across the SDNP (currently 48), through the FiPL funded Pasture and Profit project, to share knowledge and ideas on sustainable grazing practices to improve soil health and increase climate resilience.</li> <li>• Use the ‘Bee-lines’ funding to support projects that benefit wild pollinators at field, farm and landscape scale.</li> </ul>

**CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 9 – TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABLE ACCESS**

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Work alongside Local Highway Authorities to develop sustainable travel schemes and deliver the best ‘low-carbon’ options for connecting into the South Downs National Park.</p>	<p>Work with sector partners to encourage provision of facilities, opportunities and incentives to allow for reduced carbon travel.</p> <p>Support the shift to low-carbon travel. Support and encourage people to go ‘car free’ during their visit to the South Downs National Park.</p> <p>Build, promote <u>and enhance</u> off-road cycling &amp; walking infrastructure (see current infrastructure projects to the right)</p>	<p><b>ALEX PRINGLE</b></p> <p>Local Highway Authorities, Highways England, Public Transport Providers, Tourism Businesses, Access and Amenity Groups, Local Access Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egrets Way Phase VI – Complete final construction of 3km of a new shared-use path between Lewes and Rodmell.</li> <li>• Centurion Way – Detailed specification, path construction works (West Dean to Singleton), stabilisation / repair works (Singleton Station site) and A286 Footway improvements.</li> <li>• Develop feasibility and designs (in partnership) for Active Travel projects including Rother Valley Way, Midhurst Green Way &amp; SDW links.</li> <li>• Review 2017 Cycling and Walking strategy to produce a SD wide Local Cycling &amp; Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 10 – RURAL ECONOMY & TOURISM

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Support rural businesses to adapt their business operations, improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy.</p>	<p>As part of the 2024/25 plan, Energy Audits were carried out for 5 Cultural and Heritage Organisations identifying 60 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emission reduction potential per year across the sites. For 25/26 monitor the implementation of any recommendations, Create a case study document of audit learnings that may be applicable to other organisations and publicise.</p> <p>Expand the reach of the Green South Downs Sustainability Certification by working with partner organisations to adopt and potentially subsidise organisations through the scheme , including capturing carbon baseline data.</p> <p>Facilitate the transaction of high integrity local carbon from local planting schemes to the SDNP Rural Economy (SMEs) utilising OSD and targeting our priority sectors.</p> <p>Create a clear way for Residents and Businesses to align themselves with SDNP Net Zero Targets through a pledging system working with Comms.</p> <p>Identify potential partners in the Manufacturing sector within the SDNP (responsible for 40% of Industry emissions) for bespoke Carbon intervention and support</p>	<p><b>CHRIS HANNON</b></p> <p>PeCAN, Chichester District Council, WSCC, SVEIG, NPP, Green Tourism, Hampshire Green Innovation Steering Group, West Sussex Nature and Enviro working group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish partnerships with CIC, local authorities and charities to adopt and expand the reach of Green South Downs, increasing the number of rural businesses actively baselining. Establish tracking and monitoring with Green Tourism on carbon emissions.</li> <li>When local woodland carbon is available - Encourage adoption and commercial viability of woodland carbon by connecting local organisations within the Our South Downs network, partner local authorities, carbon calculation schemes and other stakeholders with the new local carbon market.</li> <li>Energy Audits: share best practice and common advice from 24/25 energy audits. Carry out and provide a case study for a Church for 25/26 plan to support EcoChurches.</li> <li>Create a clear way for Residents and Businesses to align themselves with SDNP Net Zero Targets through a pledging system, working with Comms.</li> <li>Identify potential partners in the Manufacturing sector within the SDNP (responsible for 40% of Industry emissions) for bespoke Carbon intervention and support.</li> <li>Identify the main industries and businesses that are high-level GHG emission sources in and around the National Park. Work with them to develop and implement plans to achieve emission reductions and wider measures that support them to become more sustainable.'</li> </ul>
	<p>Seek to apply learning from the Fair Game Project. Work with project partners to develop collective funding bids linking academia, NGOs, NPAs and rural businesses. Address the impacts of deer numbers on nature recovery and climate action, with a particular focus on creating supply chain opportunities for local venison supply.</p>	<p><b>CHRIS HANNON &amp; ANOOSHKA RAWDEN</b></p> <p>Natural England, University of Exeter, British Deer Society, National Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue potential funding avenues via AHRC for commercialisation investment that offer routes between deer managers and suppliers/consumers, to further the Virtuous Venison message.</li> <li>Pursue potential funding avenues via AHRC and BDS for research into deer impacts on vegetation and habitat, to understand implications for nature recovery and climate action.</li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 11 – ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
<p>Raise awareness of SDNPA climate change strategy to the South Downs Volunteer and Learning Network members.</p>	<p>Extend the scope of volunteer capacity within parishes and local groups to enhance community resilience to potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Continued use of SDNP volunteers, including South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) programme, to support the work of rangers to achieve climate action targets.</p> <p>Focus on climate change as a key area for collaboration across the education sector.</p> <p>Continue to develop new ways to frame the SDNPA's communication with young audiences, minimise the potential for eco-anxiety in young people and to promote positive action.</p>	<p><b>AMANDA ELMES</b></p> <p>Learning Network, Schools and Education sector partners, EYE Network, SDYA network, SDNP Volunteers, wider Volunteer Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with the SDNP Trust on three key grant schemes to promote positive action for the nature and climate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Conservation Fund: Promotes volunteer activity in support of the SDNP priorities including habitat and biodiversity enhancements.</li> <li>Youth Action Fund: Promoting youth social and environmental action with a focus on taking positive action for nature and climate change initiatives.</li> <li>School ReNature Grants: New grant scheme that provides funding to schools for positive action for nature and climate on their school estate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Deliver a regular programme of volunteer tasks in support of Ranger Teams Area objectives, nature recovery and climate action targets.</li> <li>Work in partnership with members of the SDNP Learning Network with a focus on climate change education to deliver workshops for the wider network and/or schools.</li> </ul>

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
	Support learning providers in delivering learning about climate change.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a programme of South Downs Youth Action providing social and environmental action tasks for young people aged 16-25 years in support of renature and climate change priorities.</li> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions associated with school visits in the SDNP through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promoting in-school visits and online teacher training to bring the SDNP into the school curricula.</li> <li>➤ Promoting sustainable transport options for Outdoor Learning Grants with 10% of grant budget ringfenced for sustainable and active travel options.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME 12 – HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT & CULTURAL HERITAGE SECTOR

Objective	Proposed Actions	SDNPA Lead Officer / Partners	Year 2025-26 Activities
Communicating the impacts of climate change and supporting behaviour change and greater resilience for local communities.	<p>Collaborate with sector partners to explore the establishment of a grant programme to support communities with sustainable and carbon reducing actions.</p> <p>Developing more effective and engaging ways to communicate around the challenges of climate change and adaptation to the public through the creative and cultural sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How can we open up ‘climate conversations’ within the SDNP?</li> <li>➤ How can we ensure a diversity of voices in those conversations?</li> </ul>	<b>SARA OSMAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops to activate ideas and thinking within Parish Councils and local community collectives – inspiring people to think about how play and creativity to help thinking and action around the climate crisis. This audience would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Youth groups;</li> <li>➤ Local community collectives/ grassroots organisations can embrace creativity in communicating climate action and supporting behavioural change (i.e. working with WeCAN and PeCan, and through Ouse Valley Climate Action);</li> <li>➤ Parish Councils: how they can develop climate resilience and support local action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop inter-disciplinary groups to include young people and the science/cultural sector to develop public projects to inspire public discourse and encourage climate action.</li> </ul>
Communicating the impacts of climate change and supporting behaviour change and greater resilience for local communities.	Support activities that create case studies for the creative and cultural sectors to pursue Net Zero initiatives that secure carbon reduction, energy independence and reduced operational costs and utilise to influence, support and foster Net Zero approaches to operational delivery cross-sector.	<p><b>CHRIS HANNON &amp; ANOOSHKA RAWDEN</b></p> <p><b>ANOOSHKA RAWDEN</b> SDNPA Planning, SDNPA Cultural Heritage Lead, SDNPA Comms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Energy Audits with Sussex Archaeological Society (Lewes Castle and Museum, and Anne of Cleves House), National Trust (Monks House), Gilbert Whites House and Gardens and Petersfield Museum to support pursuit of carbon reduction/green energy solutions, including production of associated case studies for wider dissemination.</li> <li>• Exploration of the application of the above approach with a wider range of heritage assets (i.e. churches) to ensure a broad range of case studies are available.</li> <li>• Ensure information on interest to homeowners and in the context of planning re pre-1919 building stock and energy/Net Zero improvements are available on the SDNPA website and promoted on a rolling basis on SDNPA digital and social platforms,</li> <li>• Promote best practice and ensure residents can access relevant information relating to historic buildings and sensitive adaptation. To note, this action also links to Programme 4 as a complimentary approach.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to increase monitoring and recording activities for Scheduled Monuments in partnership with other NPAs and the National Trust, utilising citizen science approaches.</li> </ul>