

ADEPT President's Awards 2025

Entry form

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Award category Shaping Places for People

Project Title Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan delivery

Local authority entrant Suffolk County Council

Partner/s if applicable All Suffolk's public sector organisations

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Our collaborative projects support adults & young people to improve community resilience & tackle the health impacts of a warming climate.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.



Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://youtu.be/qR2aQhipuvA>

Shaping places for people: How was this project an innovative response to a significant concern? (150 words max.)

By placing positive outcomes for adults and young people at the heart of service design, our projects address the key challenge: how best to set Suffolk on the path to net zero in an equitable way, building community resilience and unlocking the financial, and physical & mental health benefits of tackling climate change.

E.g., when surveyed, our residents told us they need impartial advice and support to improve home energy

efficiency, so we provide services like:

- Clear advice on our accessible websites.
- A community-based, volunteer-led thermal imaging camera service.
- A digital tool to help householders create bespoke action plans.
- A Retrofit Assessment Scheme to provide detailed reports.
- Subsidised DIY loft insulation.
- A 0% loan scheme to help pay for measures.
- Financial support for low-income and vulnerable residents.

We have engaged students through two Youth Climate Conferences and created a Sustainable Schools Network to embed our approach for the long-term.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

- Residential energy consumption contributes 22% of the UK's carbon emissions. Emissions can be reduced by up to 50% through retrofitting.
- The loan scheme is expected to cut 2k tonnes CO2 annually.
- Suffolk's Community Network, supported by our dedicated Advisor, has over 160 groups delivering initiatives, improving community resilience.
- Energy efficiency upgrades can save residents up to £500 per year.
- Cold homes are linked to 40% higher rates of respiratory illnesses. Retrofitting homes improves health outcomes and reduces pressure on healthcare services.
- For every £1 million invested in energy efficiency, 16 jobs are created in the green economy. Increased demand for retrofitting supports local contractors and promotes skills development.
- 13% of Suffolk households live in fuel poverty. By reducing energy consumption and bills, Suffolk's initiatives address this.
- Our programme has delivered £34mn in social value and counting!

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

The Leaders of Suffolk's Public Sector organisations have all publicly committed to climate action and tasked our Local Authority Environment Portfolio Holders to jointly provide political oversight.

Through a Senior Officer-led Climate Change, Environment & Energy Board we work with partners across the public sector to design and deliver our services. The Environment Agency, NHS, Public Health and University of Suffolk are active members, alongside all Local Authorities.

We have a series of delivery groups to implement actions across the Plan's themes of Cleaner Power, Collaborative Action, Industrial & Commercial Emissions, Low Carbon Transport, and Sustainable Homes, containing members from across our partner base.

Organisations are commissioned for project co-design and delivery, including the environmental charity Groundwork East, the social enterprise Lendology, and Reed in Partnership, whose Mission is to positively transform people and their communities.

We work with Public Health and Planning colleagues to maximise place and people outcomes.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care and external organisations. (150 words max.)

- When surveyed, over 700 people told us what actions they take and barriers they face to further action. The results are enabling us to design future support that tackles these.
- Almost 300 people have joined our residents mailing list, to keep in touch with our project work.
- Delivered by volunteers, almost 150 communities have so far taken part in our thermal camera imaging project, with over 1,660 homes surveyed.
- 235 students from more than 20 schools participated in our second Youth Climate Conference. Students heard from keynote speakers like Chris Packham, took part in workshops hosted by local environmental organisations and received careers guidance, providing long-term legacy benefits.
- Through a Senior Officer-led Climate Change, Environment & Energy Board we work with partners across

the public sector to design and deliver our services. The Environment Agency, NHS, Public Health and University of Suffolk are active members, alongside all Local Authorities.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)

Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders allocated £7.2mn from shared business rates to support project delivery. This includes £3.7mn for solar PV installation across our secondary schools, saving them money on energy bills, allowing us to deliver an education and careers support package and generate revenue from electricity sales to fund long-term project delivery.

Our Match Funder provides up to 50% of the costs of community projects, drawing in >£400k from the wider community whilst increasing our outreach.

We worked with the active travel charity Sustrans to help identify suitable sites for projects, enabling us to draw in over £11.5mn in government funding for schemes to support cycling and walking.

Our electric vehicle strategy, funded through this work, helped us to draw in £7.3mn in LEVI funding to improve our electric vehicle charge point network.

Our Solar Together Suffolk collective purchasing scheme has unlocked over £6mn in resident investment, providing long-term bill-savings.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

Please explore our dedicated web resources at <https://www.greensuffolk.org/>

See, e.g.:

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/what-we-do/projects/>

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/what-we-do/about/>

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/how-to-take-action/at-home/your-building/>

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/community-network/>

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/how-to-take-action/get-climate-ready/>

See also:

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

<https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>