

Climate & Nature Emergency in South Gloucestershire

Highlights of some of our work over the last 5 years

Transforming buildings

We have built several new highly energy efficient (Passivhaus) schools in South Gloucestershire including Frenchay Church of England Primary School, and Elm Park Primary Winterbourne. We are currently building the largest Passivhaus school in the country in Lyde Green.



Elm Park School built to 'Passivhaus' energy efficiency standard.

Transforming school journeys

South Gloucestershire is now top of the league table for large councils, with the highest percentage of schools with accreditation overall for the Modeshift Stars Programme. We have 29.5% of schools accredited – 3 Approved, 18 Good, 9 Very Good, 3 Excellent, 3 Outstanding.



Ridge Junior School celebrates their Modeshift STARS award.



Transforming journeys

Installing Electric Vehicle Charging points - The Council has installed 59 Revive charging points around South Gloucestershire since 2019, thanks to funding from a range of sources and is establishing 2 electric vehicle car clubs. Alongside developing public transport and new walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure the Council is supporting active travel - 31 local businesses have been supported to make greener journeys with bikes, equipment, and bike repair kits through our Business Active Travel Grants scheme.

Transforming Energy

179 solar system installations and 167 batteries have been installed for residents through our regional Solar Together scheme and round 3 is currently underway. The Council has supported the installation of solar panels to help power the Wave inland

surfing destination, and interest on the loan will help support council services. In December 2024 a report goes to Cabinet recommending that the Council install the maximum amount of Solar PV across its own estate including corporate buildings and 39 schools.



The Wave Drone 4. © Global Shots.



Solar Together Scheme participant, Margaret from Pucklechurch.



Transforming Heating and Cooling

The council is exploring former mine workings across South Gloucestershire which could heat and cool up to 25,000 homes. The council has provided support to residents by loaning out a thermal imaging camera in each of South Gloucestershire's libraries plus offering home energy audits and retrofit webinars alongside an energy advocate to help those struggling with high energy bills.



Thermal imaging cameras for loan at local libraries.



Securing funding to restore nature

Working with partners and communities the council has secured funding to develop and deliver work to protect and restore nature across our area including:

Common Connections

A project working to restore and connect habitat for nature and engage communities in the east Bristol fringe area of South Gloucestershire



Wick Primary students planting a hedgerow at Brockwell Park.



Community bulb planting on Siston Common.

Resilient Frome

A partnership project across the Bristol Frome River catchment to reduce flood risk, improve soil health, create wildlife habitats, and enhance water quality.



The Bristol Frome river.



A 'leaky dam' to slow the flow on Stoke Brook to help reduce flood risk on the main Bristol Frome river.



Securing funding to restore nature



Orchard planted at Cadbury Heath Primary School.

Tree Canopy Project

Thanks to funding from a range of sources we are planting trees across our area to increase tree canopy cover, improve biodiversity, provide natural cooling, shading, and flood resilience, to create greener and more resilient communities where people and nature can thrive.



Children from Page Park Preschool tree planting in Page Park.

Greenprint LiveLabs 2 Project

'Greenprint' is investigating a sustainable and replicable model for local authorities, to transform the role and value of green spaces and highway verges – to enable highways, waste and other service functions to work together to deliver environmental, social value, and financial benefits while reducing carbon emissions. South Gloucestershire Council and West Sussex County Council are working together collecting grass cuttings that will be processed to produce biofuels, generate heat and power, and provide asphalt additives that may further reduce the cost and emissions from highways operations.





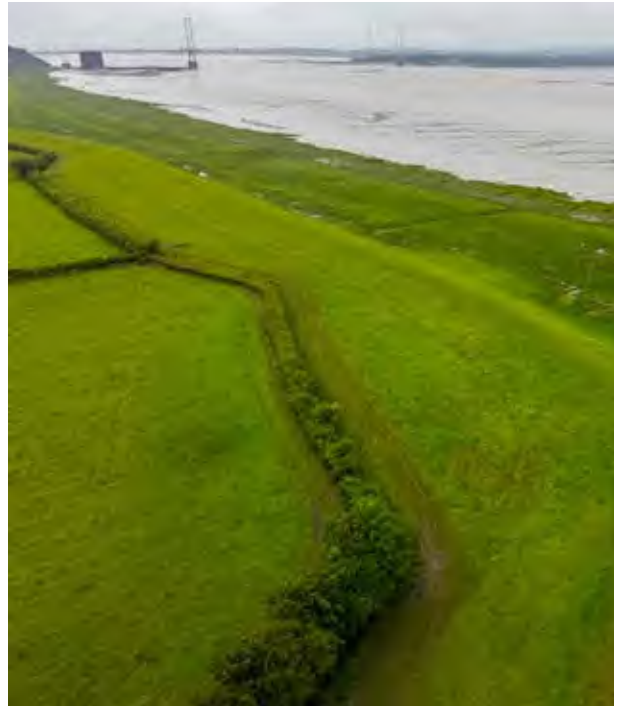
Securing funding to restore nature

Linking the Levels

The council and our partners are working with local communities and landowners to improve habitat for nature and flood and drought resilience across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire.



Avocet wading bird. © Ed Drewitt.



View over the Severn Estuary from Whale Wharf, Littleton on Severn.

© South Gloucestershire Council.

Restoration of Kingswood Park

£2.6 million secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of a £3.36 million programme to restore and improve Kingswood Park.

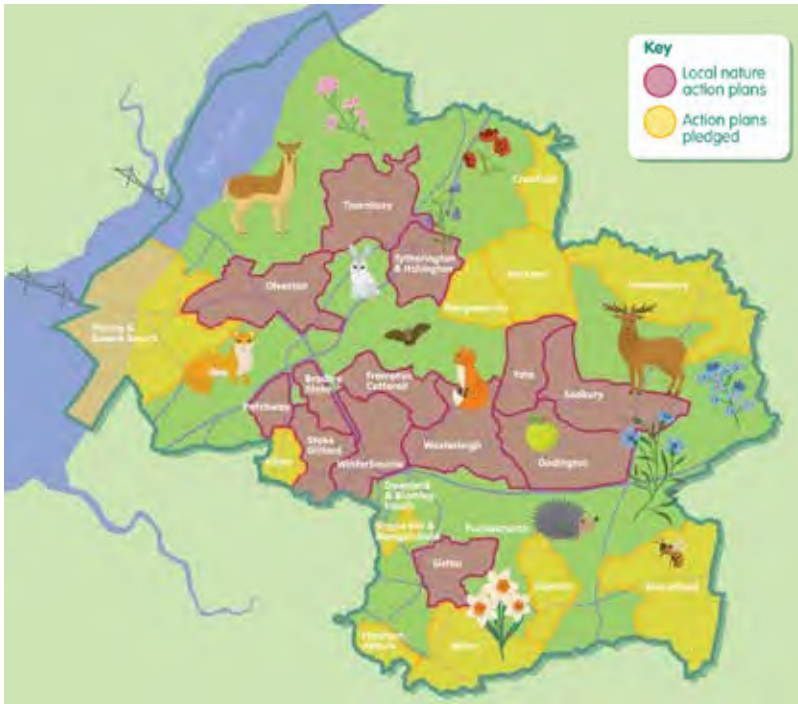
A volunteer from the Friends of Kingswood Park caring for the park rose garden.

© South Gloucestershire Council.





Area wide action for Nature



With support from the Councils Biodiversity team, 25 Town and Parish Councils in South Gloucestershire have prepared and are delivering Local Climate and Nature Action Plans and other Councils in the West of England and beyond are also now adopting this approach. The Council works with **volunteers from over 20 community spaces friend's groups and wildlife groups** who play a vital role in caring for the open spaces and local nature across our communities.

'Hedgerow Heroes' volunteers in action planting a new hedgerow.



Friends of Wapley Bushes volunteers undertaking orchard maintenance.



Area wide action for Nature

Creating community nature reserves

Our Common Connections team and Avon Wildlife Trust are working with residents in Emersons Green, Kingswood and Warmley to provide information and support for local people to manage gardens positively for nature. So far over 300 gardens have been signed up, making changes for nature such as replacing astro turf with a clover lawn!



Communications campaigns and community engagement to raise awareness and action

The Council and our partners work together on communications to share Climate and Nature information to raise awareness and support action.



Visit to Marshfield: South Gloucestershire Climate and Nature Emergency engagement forum.