

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 March 2024

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL de WHALLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

For the period 11 February 2024 to 12 March 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

Procurement of project facilitators is now underway and once appointed will work with each of the selected communities, including Marshland St. James.

Solar Together

The scheme, which is a group buying initiative for householders to purchase solar panels and battery systems will recommence in the summer providing the final figures are acceptable.

Schools Climate Competition Project

Evaluation feedback responses are awaited from each of the participating schools. These will help inform next year's competition.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

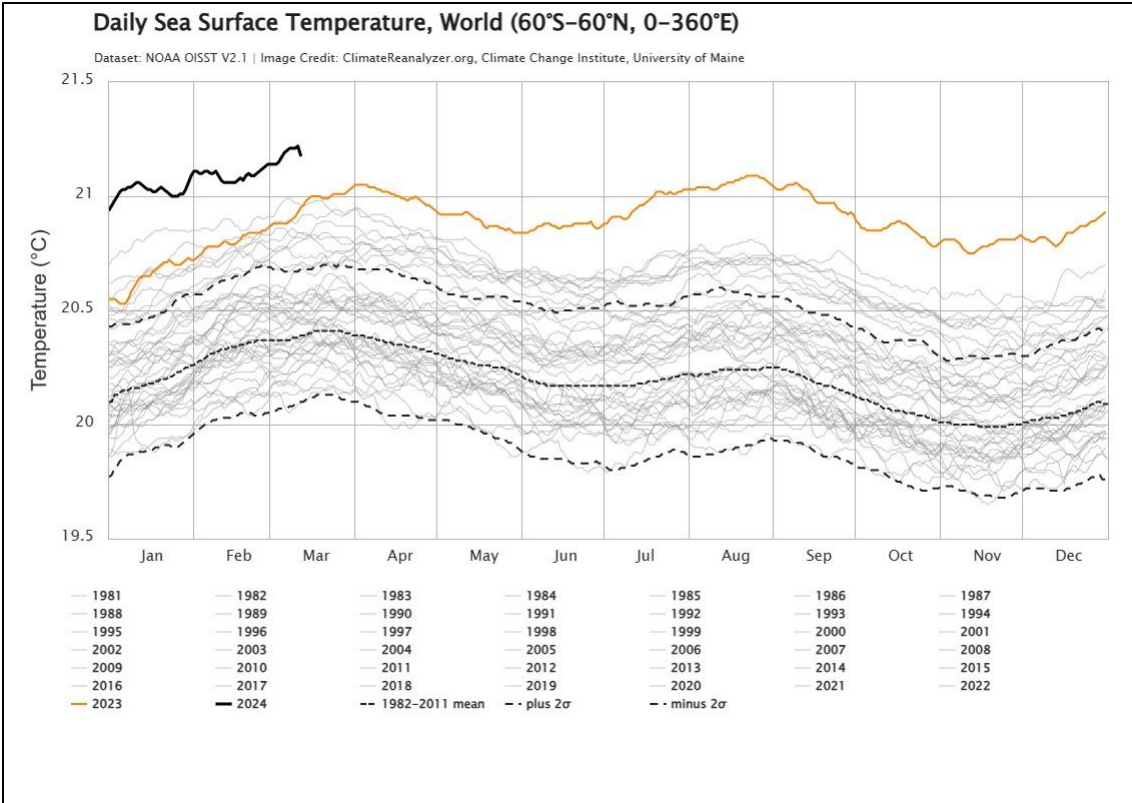
The partnership (officers group) met on 28 February 2024. The partnership's draft annual report for 2023/24 was considered. Once finalised in April, it will be published on the partnership's website.

Climate

February 2024 was the warmest February on record globally, the ninth such consecutive month, with an average surface air temperature of 13.54°C, 0.12°C above the temperature of the previous warmest February, in 2016. January was about 1.77°C warmer than an estimate of the January average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for February 2024 over 60°S–60°N was 21.06°C, the highest for any month in the dataset, above the previous record of August 2023 (20.98°C). Sea surface temperature is defined over the global extrapolar ocean, from 60°S to 60°N. This is used as a standard diagnostic for climate monitoring.

Data source: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

An update is to be given to the Environment and Community Panel on the Action Plan, latest Council Carbon Footprint and Climate Change Reserve Fund at the meeting scheduled for 9 April 2024.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

- Downham Market (Town Hall) – 26/03/2024 10:00-14:00**
- Stow Bardolph (Church Farm) – 02/04/2024 09:00-15:00**
- Downham Market (Primary School) – 20/04/2024 10:00-15:00 (Earth Day)**
- Feltwell (Village Fete) – 15/06/2024 10:00-15:00**
- Downham Market (Marketplace) – 26/07/2024 09:00-14:00**
- King’s Lynn (Boots) – 02/08/2024 10:00-14:00**

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

- Marshland St. James: Net Zero Communities/Beat Your Bills
- Mayor’s Business Awards - Environmental Champion
- Norfolk Records Office
- CIL Spending Panel
- Greenyard
- Regeneration and Development Panel

Environment and Community Panel

Planning Committee

Biodiversity Task Group

Environmental Groups

Conservancy Board

British Sugar

Biodiversity Competition Proposal

Cabinet Training

Cabinet

East of England Local Authority Water Summit

NORSE Materials Recycling Facility

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Weekly Updates

Meetings Scheduled:

Norfolk Climate Change Portfolio Holders meeting 10 April 2024.