

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 August 2024

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

For the period 19 June 2024 to 20 August 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Vehicle Fleet Review

The project seeks to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet. To inform this, a report, including options appraisal, is required. This went out to tender on 11 August with a deadline of 11 September. Bid selections will then take place from 17 September. The final report is expected late 2024 or early 2025.

School's Climate Competition Project

After last year's success, the competition has been renewed and the associated administration went out to tender on 31 July, with a deadline of 31 August.

Solar Together

The scheme is a group buying initiative for householders to purchase solar panels and battery systems. A first round of targeted invitation letters will be sent out on 26 August. The second round of letters will be sent out mid-September. Applications must be registered by 18 October 2024 with installation completed by June 2025.

Carbon Audit

Work on the 23/24 audit has commenced. The 22/23 audit is completed and will be published on the website shortly. District data has highlighted that the main cause of emissions are from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), agriculture and transport.

Carbon Literacy Training

The E-learning provider is working on developing a set of interactive slides. Focus groups with staff members have been booked in and content is being finalised.

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)

The AQAP has completed public consultation and will go to the Environment and Community Panel on 3 September and Cabinet on 17 September. The Air Quality Annual Status Report has been circulated via the Members Bulletin, is online for public consumption and awaits Defra feedback.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

NCCP is currently reviewing its work plan and is developing a new long-term plan for the partnership focused on its three strategic priorities; Energy, Retrofit and Transport, alongside how it matures as a partnership. This plan will be discussed with the NCCP portfolio holder group in September for their input.

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

The NCCP partnership manager and the project lead for the Innovate UK funded Norfolk NetZero Communities project have recently showcased the project at the East of England Climate and Adaptation summit.

The Norfolk NetZero Communities project has appointed the environmental charity Hubbub to be its engagement partner and they have begun a series of engagement activities with Marshland St. James to really understand the non-technical barriers that are preventing more residents from taking climate positive action. Following on from this, in the autumn, they will start to design solutions with the community to address the identified barriers.

Climate

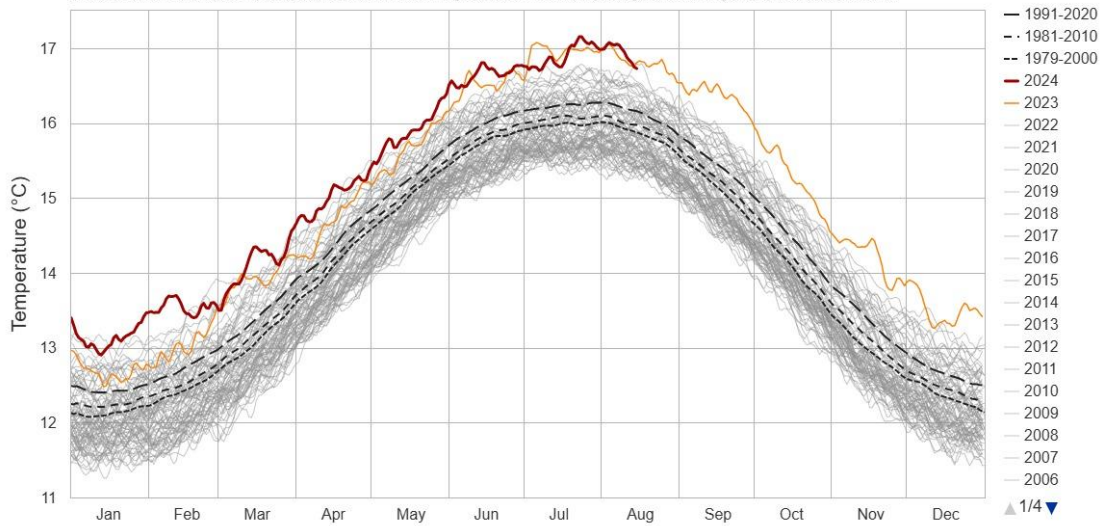
July 2024 was the second-warmest July on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.91°C, only 0.04°C lower than the record set in July 2023. July was about 1.48°C warmer than an estimate of the July average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period. This marks the end of a series of twelve consecutive months above 1.5°C. July also saw the two hottest daily global-average temperatures, in the ERA5 dataset, of 17.16°C and 17.15°C on 22 and 23 July 2024 respectively.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for July 2024 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.88°C, the second-highest for any month in the dataset, only 0.01°C below the record set in July 2023. This marks the end of a series of fifteen consecutive months where the SST had been the warmest in the dataset for the respective month. 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.

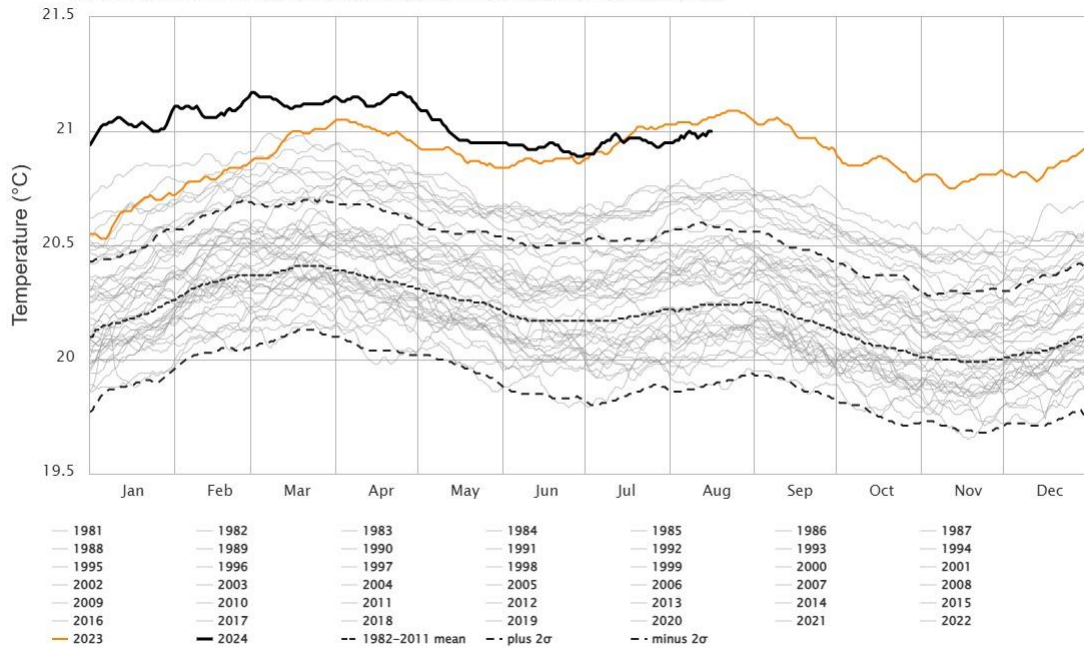
Daily Surface Air Temperature, World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

Dataset: ECMWF Reanalysis v5 (ERA5) downloaded from C3S | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



Daily Sea Surface Temperature, World (60°S–60°N, 0–360°E)

Dataset: NOAA OISST V2.1 | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Mayors Awards

We have renewed our sponsorship of the environmental category of the Mayor's Awards, to be held on the 7 March 2025

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet
Multi Agency Group 001 – Norfolk Ground Water Challenges
Peer Review Revisit
Tour of Council's Property Holdings (King's Lynn)
King's Lynn Foodbank
Potential Development of Railway Stations
Net Zero Communities – Marshland St. James
King's Lynn Ferry Briefing
Fenland and West Norfolk Friends of the Earth
Swift Bricks etc in Council's Development Projects
East of England Climate Conference
King's Lynn Conservancy Board
Tour of Guildhall
Regeneration and Development Panel
South Lynn Community Orchard/Beuys' Acorns Project
Sibelco Site Visit
Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Briefing

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Weekly Updates
Air Quality Action Plan Briefing

Meetings Scheduled:

Lynnsport and AWN tour of facilities
Norfolk Climate Change Portfolio Holders meeting TBD September 2024.