

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 October 2024

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

For the period 20 August 2024 to 16 October 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 an options appraisal, is required. A preferred bidder has been selected pending due diligence checks, following a thorough tendering process which received thirteen responses. The final report is expected late 2024 or early 2025.

Schools Climate Competition Project

Following a tender exercise, Groundwork East have been selected as the provider. A presentation to the borough's headteachers network is planned for the 28th November and will seek to engage schools ahead of activity in early 2025.

Solar Together

The group buying scheme is being promoted this year and following a targeted mailshot over 500 households across the borough have expressed an interest. This is similar level of interest to the previous campaign in 2022. Registrations close on 15th November 2024. Those interested in obtaining a price for the installation of solar panels, battery storage or an EV charger can find further information on <https://solartogether.co.uk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk/home>

Carbon Audit

Final datasets are being collated with an aim of having a first draft of the annual carbon audit available for December 2024.

Carbon Literacy Training

Final content testing with a staff panel is underway ahead of our e-learning providers creating the training material for use in the council's e-learning platform.

Ferry

Short Term/immediate repairs and condition

Richard Jackson Engineering Consultants were appointed on the 30th July 2024 to conduct a structural inspection and load assessment of the West

Lynn and King's Lynn Ferry landings and ramps. This survey took place on 16th September 2024 and for which a report is due imminently.

Three steps on the King's Lynn landing were replaced by our contractor along with re-securing a loose tread plate on 1st September 2024.

The Ferry Operator was contacted and offered the opportunity to discuss funding and business support on 27th September 2024, as of writing, we await their response.

Medium-Long term options

Legal services were instructed to review legal ownership of ferry infrastructure on 8th August 2024.

The project to improve the infrastructure at the terminals has been included in the long list of potential projects for investment, subject to suitable funding becoming available.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

BCKLWN and North Norfolk District Council will be piloting a thermal imaging camera project. Six cameras have been purchased by the partnership that will be shared across the districts. The initiative is based upon a Suffolk Climate Change Partnership project where parish councils or community groups can use the cameras for two-week intervals. Initially the project will be focused on the Norfolk Net Zero Communities areas with an aim to extend coverage to further parish councils or community groups. Training is being undertaken on 28th October 2024 with information packs in development.

Partnership meetings have focused on the latest territorial carbon emissions published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, reviewing partnership priorities and work plan and community energy.

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

The project is working through a listening phase with all the participating communities across the county. Hubbub attended a farmers market event held in Marshland St James on 22nd September 2024 and spoke with residents about the Solar Together scheme and other retrofit options along with barriers to change. The findings from this research will be collated and potential solutions identified for the barriers to decarbonisation will be explored with the communities.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

A desktop study has been commissioned to investigate the feasibility of installing additional solar photovoltaic arrays. This would be to supplement the pre-existing arrays we have already installed across seven sites (BCKLWN Depot, Lynnsport, St. James Pool, Downham Leisure, Oasis, King's Court and South Lynn Community Centre).

Initial calculations would suggest that KLIC, Alive Downham Leisure and the Corn Exchange could be particularly favourable candidates for further solar

PV, although other sites are under consideration. Based on the desktop assessment (and the figures provided), these three sites could support an additional installed capacity of 290.84kWp which, for a combined capital expenditure of £327,915.00, could deliver annual carbon savings of 220 tonnes CO₂e and financial payback within a ten-year period. The proposals will be explored and scrutinised in more detail.

ReFit

Performance from the new heat pumps has unfortunately continued to not meet with expectations.

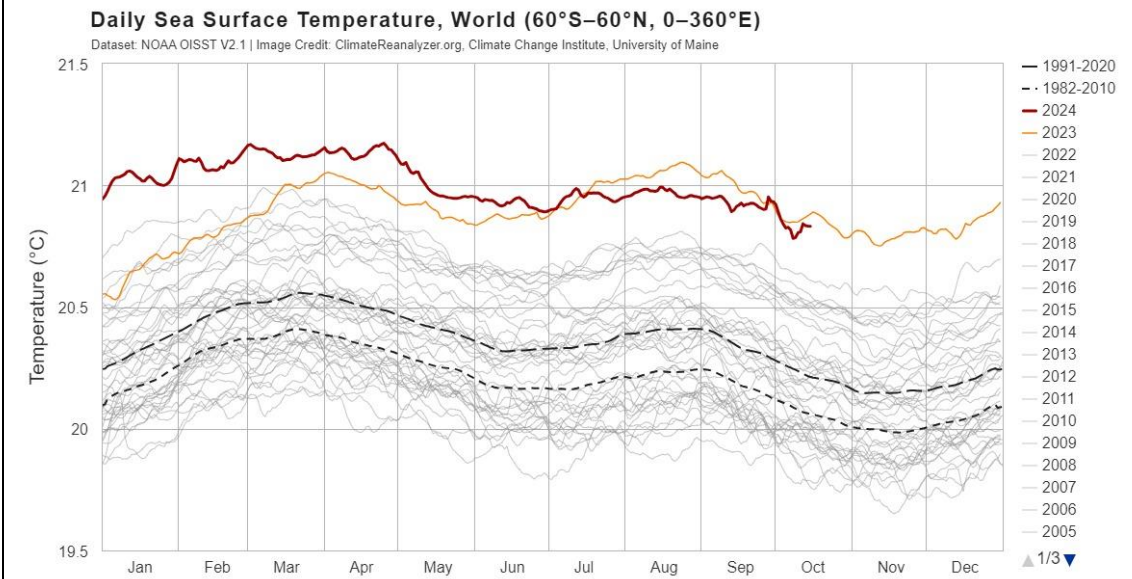
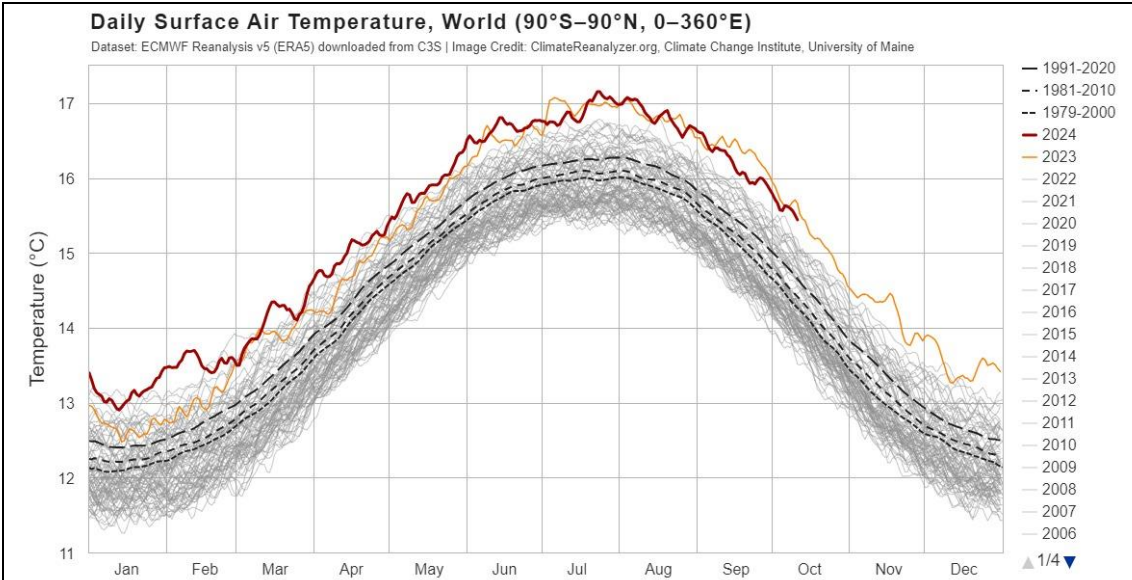
The council have now invoked the support of Local Partnerships, who own the ReFit framework under which we appointed Ameresco. Ameresco have committed to provide a plan of action for remedial works and addressing the shortfall in savings this month (October). This will form the basis of a three-way discussion with Ameresco, Local Partnerships and the Council.

Climate

September 2024 was the second-warmest September on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.17°C, 0.21°C lower than the record set in September 2023. September was about 1.54°C warmer than an estimate of the September average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period and was the 14th month in a 15-month period for which the global-average surface air temperature exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The average temperature anomaly for the remaining months of 2024 would need to drop by more than 0.4°C for this year not to be warmer than 2023, making it almost certain that 2024 is going to be the warmest year on record.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for September 2024 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.83°C, the second-highest for the month in the dataset, only 0.09°C below the record set in September 2023. The equatorial and central Pacific had below-average temperatures, indicating a developing La Niña; however, SSTs across the ocean remained unusually high over many regions. 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.

Mayors Awards

The Environmental Champion category will feature within the Mayors' Business Awards 2025 with the winner announced on 7th March 2025. Nominations are now open and close on 22nd November 2024.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

Thornham (Village Hall) – 05/11/2024 11:00-14:00

Snettisham (Memorial Hall) – 08/11/2024 10:00-12:00

Emneth (Village Hall) – 20/11/2024 10:00-12:00

King's Lynn (Windsor Park) – 02/12/2024

Outwell (Beaupre Hall) – 11/12/2024 10:00-12:00

Dersingham (Village Centre) – 07/01/2025 11:30-13:30

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet
ICT Development Group
Biodiversity Task Group
Environmental Groups
Lynnsport and Alive West Norfolk Tour of Facilities
Environment and Community Panel
South Lynn Community Orchard/Beuys' Acorns Project
Equality Impact Assessment Training
King's Lynn IDB
Lynnsport Meadow
Active Travel Briefing
Local Plan Task Group
Development Services Directorate Morning
CIL Spending Panel
Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Portfolio Holders Group
Budget Review
King's Lynn Transport Strategy Stakeholder Consultation
Norfolk Coast National Landscape Management Plan
Tour of Aikman's Yard (Museum's Committee)
Regeneration and Development Panel

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

C EX Portfolio Update
Climate Change Weekly Updates
Air Quality Briefing

Meetings Scheduled:

College of West Anglia Sustainability Event