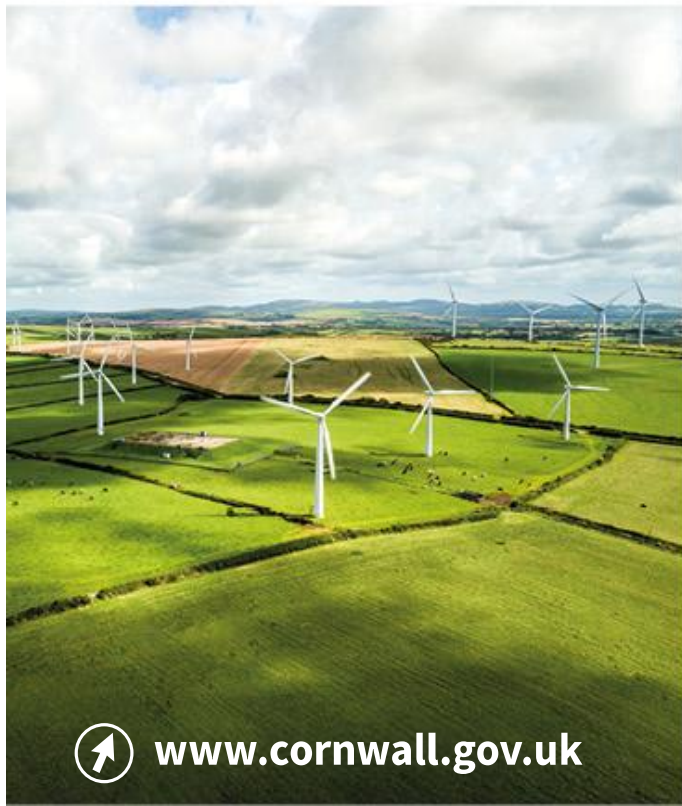


Cornwall: combatting climate change through funding nature recovery

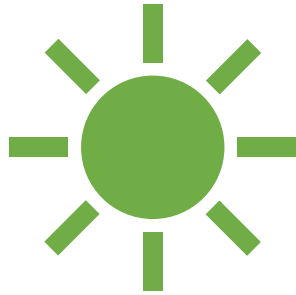
Mark Holmes, Head of Environmental Partnerships and Climate Change



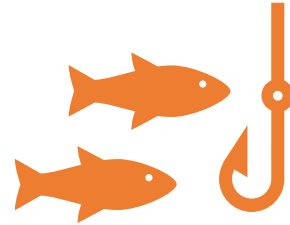


Why does nature matter?

[Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Strategy Explainer](#)



**Climate
emergency**



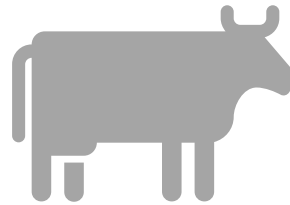
**Overfishing and
harmful fishing
practices**



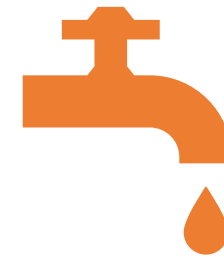
Development



Pollution

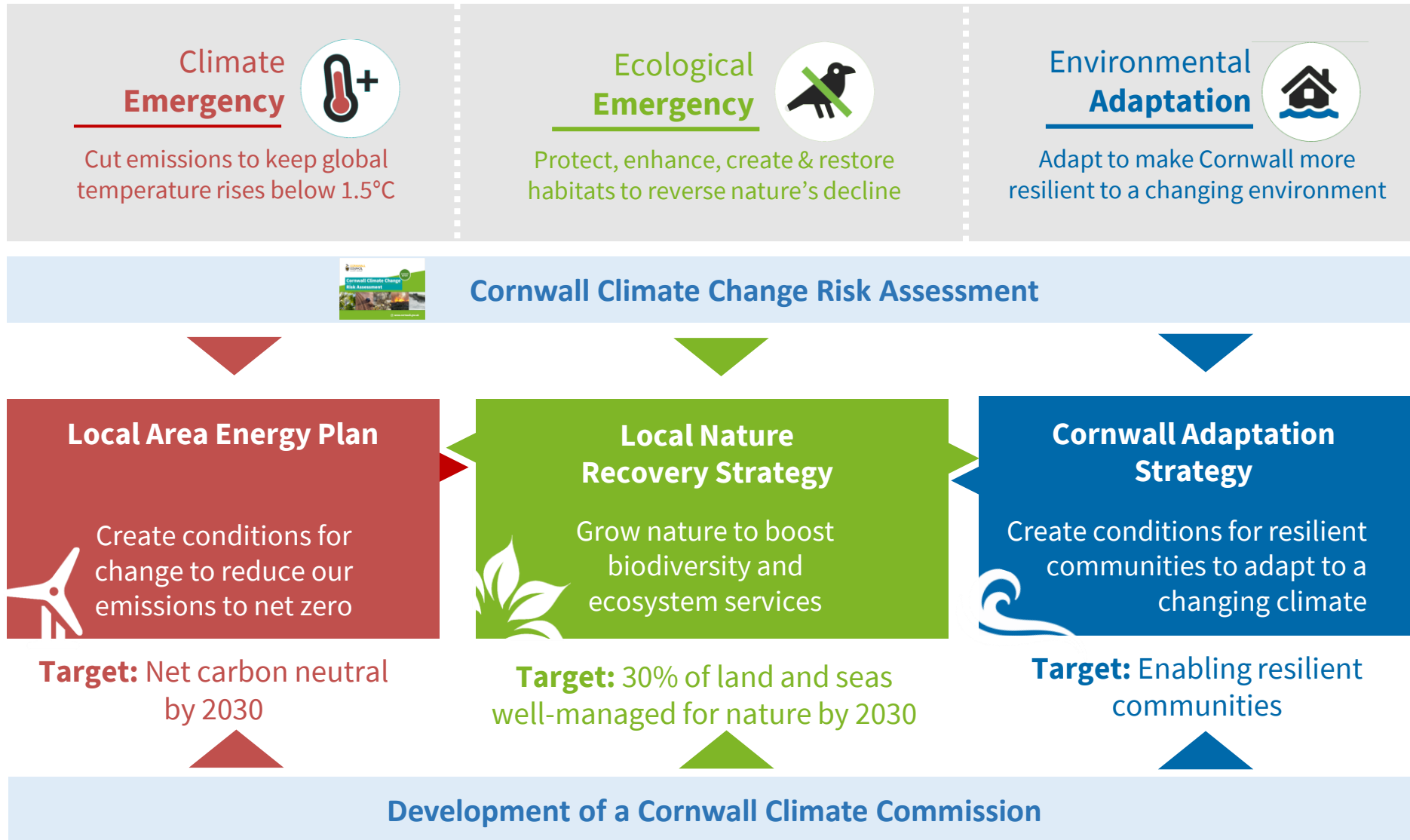


**Intensive and
harmful farming
practices**



**Poor water
management**

Three aligned challenges



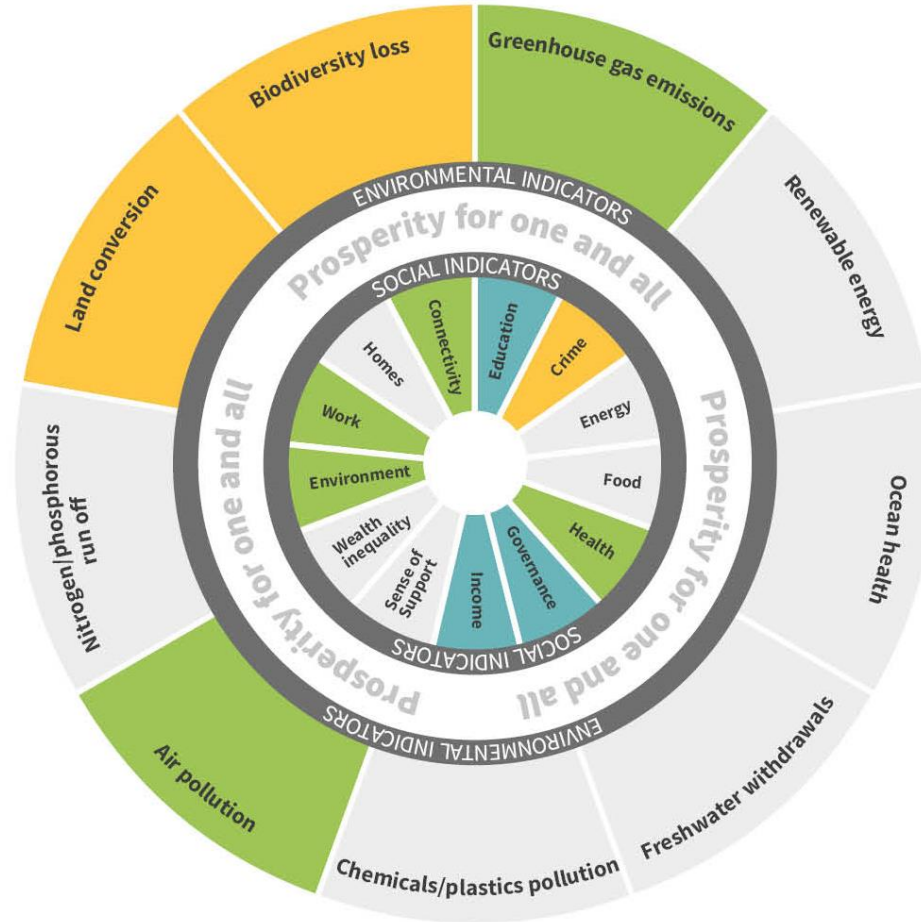
Placing people and planet at the heart of strategic policy development and decision



Development Planning Document



Housing Decarbonisation Strategy



Nature Recovery Strategy



Green Growth Strategy

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY

LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

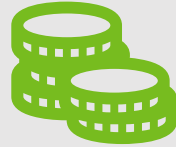


Why does nature matter?

Nature isn't just nice to have, it is foundational to the way we live.



Climate Change Adaptation
Reducing risks



Green Jobs and Economy



Health benefits



Cleaner Air and Water



Recreation and Enjoyment



Heritage and sense of place



Food, Timber and Farming



Capturing Carbon on land and sea

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS





Restoring Nature





Natural flood management solutions





Natural flood management solutions





Natural flood management solutions





Natural flood management solutions





Natural flood management solutions





The role of natural flood management solutions

[Cornwall Council - StARR Project - 2 Min Film V3 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)

- £1 million DEFRA Funded pilot programme to March 2025. Cohort of trailblazer authorities. Part of Wider UK Green Finance Strategy. Access to national investors and Green Finance advice.
- Linked to *Environmental Improvement Plan's* ambition for private investment of £1bn by 2030
- Will enable the creation of a local **Natural Capital Framework**
- Enable existing £30 Million LNP Pipeline to be expanded and get “**Investment Ready**” and fully costed to understand the true natural capital value for society
- Support delivery of LNRS, Environmental Growth Strategy, Carbon sequestration and adaption activities





SUPPORTING SUPPLY SIDE:

- Support farmers, land managers, enterprises with:
 - Identifying opportunities
 - Carrying out natural capital valuations
 - Strengthening investment readiness

MATCHMAKING:

- Connect supply and demand
- Showcase investment opportunities
- Local ecosystem markets and investment vehicles
- Lay the foundations for both regulatory and voluntary market activities

LEGACY:

- Matchmaking platform available post-LINC
- Support continued development of investment ready projects
- Demonstrate potential for investing in nature, and the role Council's can play

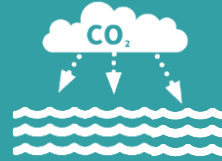
SUPPORTING DEMAND SIDE:

- Identify funders and understand their interests and demands
- Anticipate market and policy trends
- Set up matchmaking mechanisms that funders trust

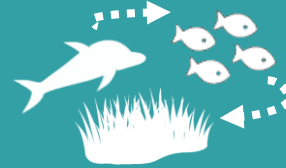


Carbon accumulation potential of seagrass beds in the Fal and Helford SAC...

MARINE
CARBON SINK



MARINE FOOD
CHAIN
STABILITY



HABITAT FOR
PROTECTED OR
RARE SPECIES



171.8 ha

in the Fal &
Helford SAC

3,400

Metric Tons of carbon
stored

7600 m²

Potential to be
recolonised if
undisturbed & unpolluted

Studying the feasibility of reintroducing lost wildlife...

- red squirrel
- water vole
- pine marten
- wild boar
- Eurasian beaver
- wildcat



Evidence-based recommendations

Practical case studies

Costed proposals

Potential biohazards

Licensing requirements

Challenges risks & barriers

Possible partners and key stakeholders



- **Peatland restoration with a partnership of local and regional organisations in the South West, funded by South West Water and Defra.**
- **Extending the current programme of moorland rewetting into Cornwall.**
- **Helping to restore 2,634 hectares of damaged peatland in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset – saving 652,625 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.**
- **It will reduce carbon emissions, restore ecosystems to support wildlife and habitat recovery, improve water quality, and protect our historic environment.**



- Cornwall Council was an early adopter of BNG
- Waste contractor SUEZ developing a recycling centre
- BNG management plan for the site was submitted as part of the planning application.
- Enhanced heathland and scrub costed at Council owned Wheal Peevor which will cover work and maintenance for the 30-year period.

Small Grant Funding

Up to £5,000 in match funding for projects which are helping to create a Carbon neutral Cornwall where 30% of land, rivers and sea are well managed for nature by 2030



We'll support projects that:

- Reduce carbon emissions from homes, communities, the workplace and travel
- Promote nature recovery and carbon sequestration
- Promote response to the climate and ecological emergencies through education and behaviour change
- Help deliver a Forest for Cornwall by planting trees and shrubbery



Water Vole Reintroduction: £5,000 pledged

Kernow Conservation raised money to restore the endangered water vole population in the Cornish countryside by creating new habitats and monitoring threats to the voles.



Soil Regeneration: £1,500 pledged

Soul Farm is 3.5-acre no-dig market farm growing seasonal vegetables in the Falmouth area of Cornwall. The funding helped to improve their composting system.

The Forest for Cornwall



- Approaching 1000 Ha of new hedges, trees and woodland planted across Cornwall
- Using Defra funding to directly fund planting or enabling access to existing grant mechanisms (EWCO)
- Planting at scale and supporting community and urban planting
- Provided funding for agroforestry demonstrators and the creation of community nurseries

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/forest-for-cornwall-programme/>



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Project Name and Farm Name	Summer cover crop establishment – Trefusis Estate
AONB Section	09 – South Coast Central
Number of hectares	4.7Ha
Project Objective	To establish temporary cover crop to provide habitat for pollinators whilst improving soil health, sequestering carbon and stabilising soils.



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Project Name and Farm Name	The Heligan Beaver Enclosure: ring-fencing nature-based solutions. (The Lost Gardens of Heligan)
AONB Section	09 – South Coast Central
Number of hectares	11Ha
Total Project Cost	£47,500
FiPL Grant Awarded	£33,250
Project Objective	To create wetland habitat whilst mitigating the impact of severe weather events on downstream settlements.



Photos:
Above: Beaver release – March 2023,
Left: Beaver dam same location
November 2023

Thank you

letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/nature-recovery

