



# Our climate commitments

2025-2030



Committed  
to quality



**healthwatch**  
Brighton and Hove

## Our commitment

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove is committed to contributing to the city's accessible, clean and sustainable environment goals.

We have already started work in this area, having produced our first plan to become a net zero organisation following our attendance at a [Council-funded sustainability course](#). Learning from the course was presented back to the staff team, volunteers and Board for wider discussion. This is helping us to calculate our current carbon impact and inform our plans.

Our environmental targets will be achieved by:

- Delivering on our [published plans](#) to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Delivering financial security. As an asset-locked organisation, our actions to reduce our environmental impact will save us money.
- Contributing to the local circular economy.
- Having SMART targets, which are deliverable within our finite resources.

## Our activities

Our plans link to Brighton and Hove city Council's [Orbis](#) policy and [carbon neutral 2030 programme](#).

To help us achieve our ambitions we hope to identify a staff member(s) and volunteers to form an Environmental Champions sub-group to drive our work forward.

As part of our commitment, we will routinely review and update our policies and will describe our progress in our Annual Report, and via performance reporting to the Council. Our planned activities are summarised in the table on the next page.

Area	Our actions
Emissions	We will define our carbon emissions and, if necessary, develop a carbon reduction plan and an approach to carbon offsetting, having first identified our carbon baseline.
Travel and transport	We will explore how we can extend financial support offered to staff to encourage more environmentally sustainable options. This builds on our actions that have encouraged the use of public transport.
Energy and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will share free <a href="#">energy saving advice</a>, help with bills, links to community support and offers from <a href="#">utility companies</a>, via our website and newsletters.</li> <li>• We will source potential funding opportunities to support energy efficient actions.</li> <li>• We will reduce our waste by increasing the use of office recycling facilities amongst staff and volunteers and prioritise digital communication to reduce paper usage.</li> <li>• We will prioritise the use of local supply chains and develop a sustainable purchasing &amp; procurement policy to support the circular economy, building on our focus to 'reuse, recycle.'</li> </ul>
The built environment	We will review our office space. Our existing landlords are committed to minimising the building's adverse environmental impact, but we will determine whether our offices optimise delivery of our green targets.
Nature and environment	We will update our policies to support staff to undertake paid local volunteering activities.

# Working with stakeholders

## Internally

1. We will collaborate with our landlord to gather data to realise our plans and with local Healthwatch teams to share resources.

## Within Brighton and Hove

1. We will work with Community Works to utilise their [Investors in the Environment Bronze Award](#) to obtain good practice to improve our own plans.
2. We will work with our supply chain to confirm their carbon plans and share our learning to help them produce their own.
3. With agreed funding, we will be partnering with the [Trust for Developing Communities](#) and 20 other local VCSE to deliver a [Lottery-funded Climate for Communities Project](#). The work will empower local people to take climate action and support understanding of how this can address people's priorities around cost of living and health inequalities.

## At Sussex level

1. We will monitor the progress of the Sussex Integrated Care Systems' environmental ambitions to improve the health and wellbeing of local people (a focus of the 'Improving Lives Strategy') and determine how we can support and learn from this.

## Nationally

1. We will link with national organisations to obtain free sustainability advice.



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