

Climate Change Quarterly Bulletin for Parish and Town Councils

February 2026

This quarterly bulletin provides Parish and Town Councils with a snap-shot of climate change actions by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.



Current actions:

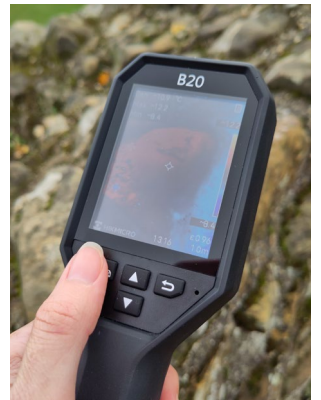
Officer engagement: The new Climate Change Officer has been actively engaging with partners, attending meetings, events and site visits across the borough.

Climate Change training (Staff & Members): two training packages have been promoted to build awareness, understanding and confidence in climate action, a short introductory e-learning course and more in-depth programme focused on practical action and delivery.

Recycling: over 2,000 food waste bin requests and an 18% increase in food waste recycling for Oct/Nov period (compared to same period last year), following a targeted campaign using leaflets, bin stickers and community engagement.

Waste Contract: new contract procurement underway, with environmental considerations integrated into the tender documents. The contract award is due to be recommended to Members at CESSC meeting in March.

Thermal Imaging Camera: nearly 40 residents have booked to use the camera, which shows draughts, cold spots and heat loss in homes helping to identify areas to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills. A second camera has been purchased in response to demand.



Current actions:

Green Business Grant Scheme: launches 5 February. Capital grants of up to £5,000 (50% intervention rate) are available to TMBC businesses for carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures, including solar panels, air source heat pumps, and EV chargers.

For enquiries: economic.regeneration@tmbc.gov.uk

Community Development Grants Scheme (UK Shared Prosperity Fund): £87,000 allocated to support a range of community projects, including heat loss reduction, insulation improvements, pond creation, and a walking bus scheme. Projects are now underway.

Solar Together 2025: 41 residents accepted proposals, 9 have withdrawn, 18 installations are complete, with some Autumn installations still in progress.

Gibson East: replacement of gas boilers with air source heat pumps and installation of solar panels is underway as part of the Office Refurbishment Project. Completion expected August 2026.



Tree Planting

Projects Delivered 2025

2025 target achieved: 1,000 trees planted

TMBC 50th Anniversary: 50 mixed native trees at Quincewood Gardens POS

Kent Heritage Project: 5 elm trees at Tonbridge Racecourse, Elm Crescent, Upper Castle Field

Kent Plan Tree / Treescape Fund: 49 fruit trees at Alders Meadow, Deacons Field, Upper Castle Field

KCC Members' Scheme: 18 standard trees at Frogbridge, Scotchers Field, Tonbridge Racecourse

Natural Colonisation Project: Area fenced at Tonbridge Racecourse, 85 mixed species whips planted

Upcoming Projects

Miyawaki forest at Tonbridge Racecourse

Football Pavilion Area Project: 85 trees

Dutch Elm Resilience Project: 10 elm trees

Replacement planting: failed/vandalised trees across the borough

Additional planting secured: via Planting Outside Woodland and KCC



Upcoming local initiatives

17 April: Drive Electric Event in Maidstone - www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drive-electric-tickets-1976717838266

Open to businesses, residents, students and relevant stakeholders wishing to learn more about the electrification of transport, with the opportunity to test drive a range of vehicles on the day.

TBC (April): Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol (CASP) - Home Energy Project Event

This project explores the barriers to installing low-carbon options across different housing types and identifies the most suitable options for each.

6 -14 June: West Malling Parish Council - The Great Big Green Week

A week-long celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature through local events and activities.

Other initiatives

Warm Homes Plan: new government initiative

Announced in January 2026, aims to upgrade homes, help families cut their energy bills, and tackle fuel poverty.

Allington Household Waste Recycling Centre

27 November 2025



- Owned by Kent County Council and operated by FCC Environment
- Award-winning site, winning Best Use of Design and Technology at the 2022 Letsrecycle Awards for Excellence
- Booking system in place for residents wanting to dispose of waste
- Reuse Shop, purpose-built retail space, opened September 2025, selling donated items supporting charities
- Reuse scheme in partnership with the prison service, refurbishing bikes
- Onsite trials underway, including bag splitting, to analyse black bag waste

Blaise Farm Composting Facility

27 November 2025



- Operated by Envar Composting Kent Ltd
- Garden waste processed onsite and converted into soil improver within 28 days
- Material is shredded and screened producing a high-quality product
- Finished compost is supplied for use in local agriculture

