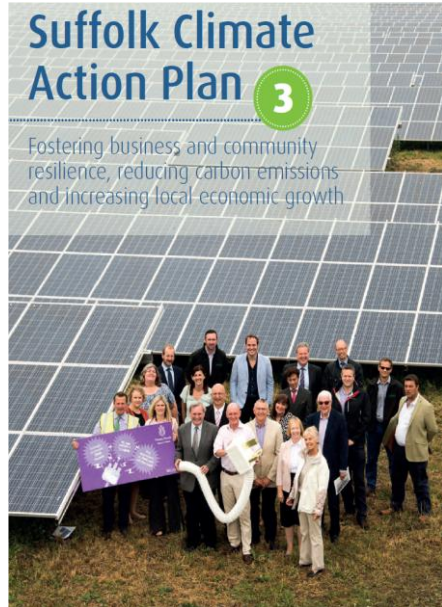


# West Suffolk's Net Zero Journey and Solar Success

Andy Oswald  
Energy & Sustainability Manager



# Existing Council energy strategies & plans



- 1998** First environmental action plan - St Edmundsbury Agenda 21
- 2003** First ISO14001 accredited environmental policy – St Edmundsbury
- 2007** First review/policy statement - St Edmundsbury Climate Change & Energy Dependency
- 2009** First County-wide policy statement – as part of Suffolk Creating the Greenest County
- 2015** **Community Energy Plan- launch solar for business & purchase Toggam solar farm**
- 2017** Third Suffolk Climate Action Plan
- 2018** **West Suffolk Energy Investment Framework**
- 2019** Climate Emergencies declared in West Suffolk and across Suffolk
- 2021** Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan & **West Suffolk Net zero budget £9m**
- 2022** Join UK100: network of ambitious LA's for cleaner communities
- 2023** Ranked in top 10 (joint 8<sup>th</sup>) in the climate scorecards
- 2024** National Wealth Fund Loan & 100<sup>th</sup> solar customer
- 2025** Ranked joint 15<sup>th</sup> in climate scorecard- highest national score for buildings



# West Suffolk Council Net Zero Roadmap

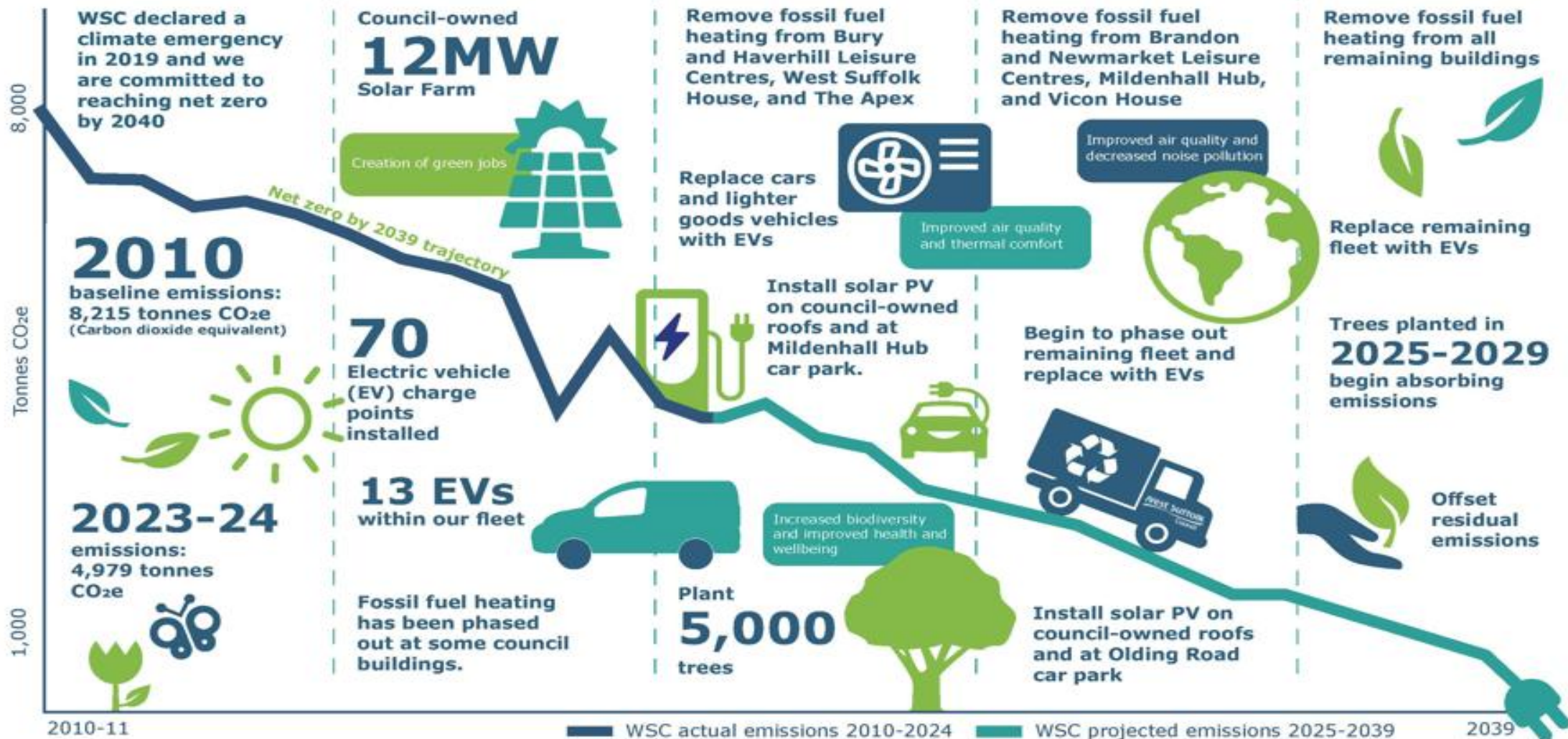
Background and baselines

Highlights so far

2025-29

2030-34

2035-39



# Community Energy Plan and Energy Framework



Community Energy Plan - laid groundwork for renewable energy investment based on achieving the following outcomes:



A long term, sustainable source of revenue for the Council



Support households, businesses and communities in West Suffolk to become less reliant on fossil-based energy



Locally-owned renewable energy generation to the benefit of the local taxpayer

## NWF's Loan to West Suffolk

### NWF parameters

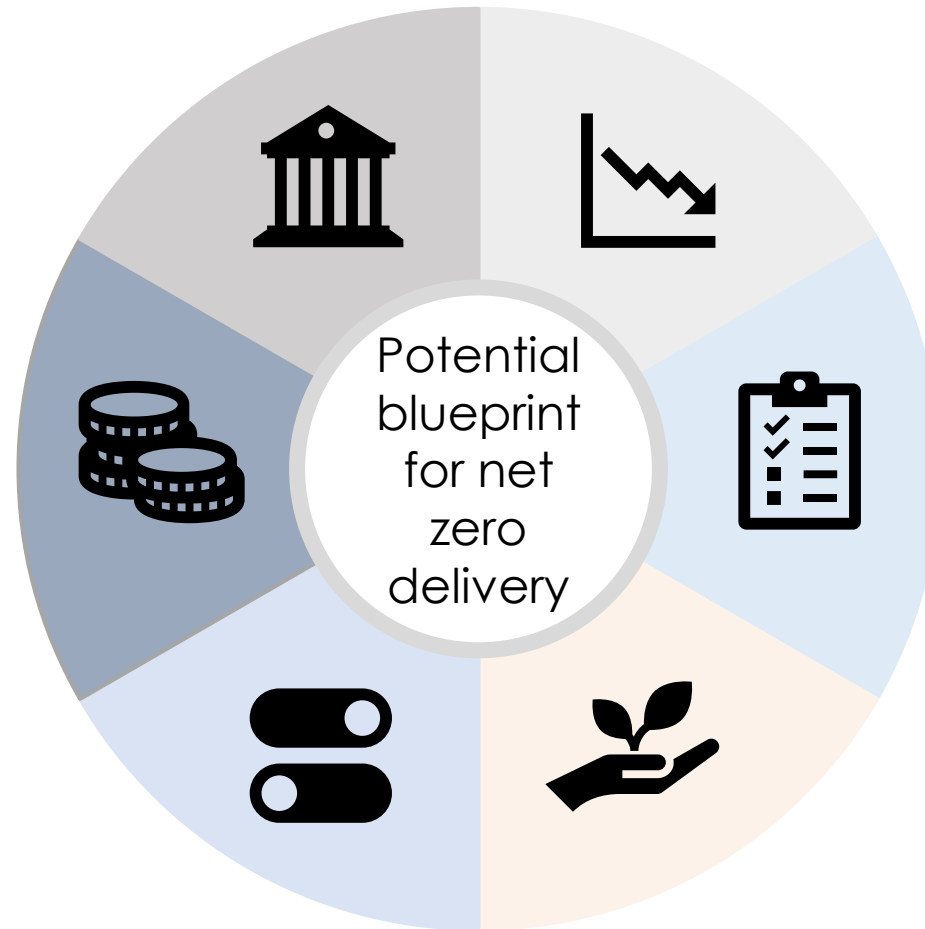
Minimum loan size  
of £5 million

### Loan facility

£17m to cover a range  
of eligible net zero projects

### Flexible terms

3 year availability period  
with interest rates fixed at  
point of drawdown



### NWF interest rate

Gilts + 40bps  
Lowest cost finance available

### Portfolio approach

Leveraging revenue generating  
projects to finance a portfolio

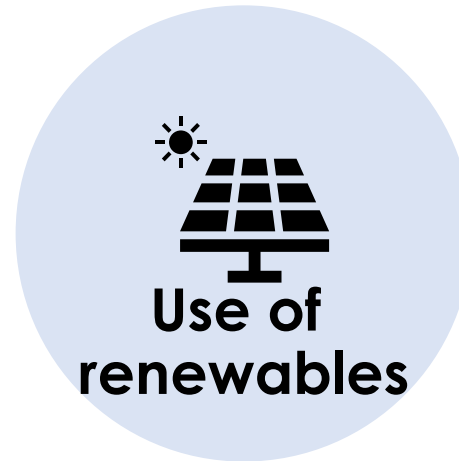
### Carbon savings

Projects tbc but estimated  
37,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saved

The Council's Net Zero Fund includes;



Move Council fleet to Electric and alternative fuel solutions. EV chargers - 70 EVs can charge simultaneously on council installed chargers and these delivered enough electricity to drive 421,490 miles.



Invest in renewables generation projects. Solar PV.  
Council have installed 8MW of roof mounted solar, 12MW solar farm - more of both in the pipeline.



Reduce emissions from existing buildings.  
New developments deliver on low carbon ambition.

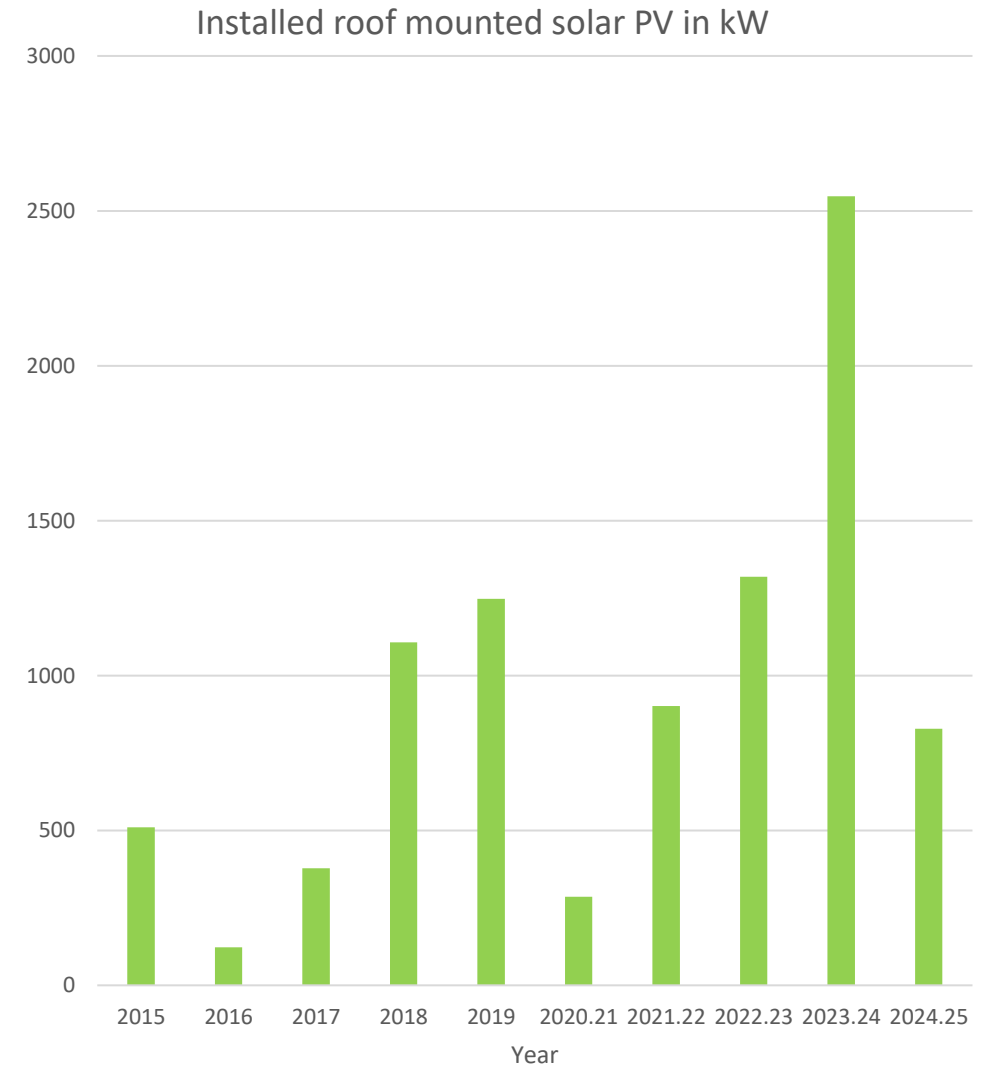
# Net zero blended return

Net Zero Fund	Approved Budget	Current Spend to date	Remaining Budget	Current Fund Performance	Annual carbon savings (t)	Potential Pipeline	Fund remaining after pipeline
Asset Management Investment	4,340,000	867,471	3,472,529	2.26%	164.78	2,600,000	872,529
Solar Investment	6,250,000	2,570,670	3,679,330	5.00%	702.34	2,000,000	1,679,330
Electric Vehicle Investment	1,160,000	540,984	619,016	4.69%	3.78	17,000	602,016
	<b>11,750,000</b>	<b>3,979,125</b>	<b>7,770,875</b>	<b>4.33%</b>	<b>870.90</b>	<b>4,617,000</b>	<b>3,153,875</b>

The saving from the National Wealth Fund compared to PWLB borrowing utilising the whole £17m loan facility would be £68,000 per year, or £1.36m over the life of the loan (20 years).

# West Suffolk Solar for Business – launched in 2015

- Invested £7 million in roof mounted solar across 100 sites with a total installed capacity of 8.1MW.
- Delivering savings on electricity expenditure to a range of businesses and organisations.
- Council fully funded, own and install the solar with a 25-year lease signed between the council and landlord.



# Benefits for businesses:

- Cut energy bills at a time when the cost of energy is rising
- Reduce the carbon footprint
- Further enhance brand and image
- Have a positive impact on the community

## West Suffolk Council will:

- plan and design
- finance
- install and maintain the solar installation
- sell the business electricity cheaper than the host grid contracted rate



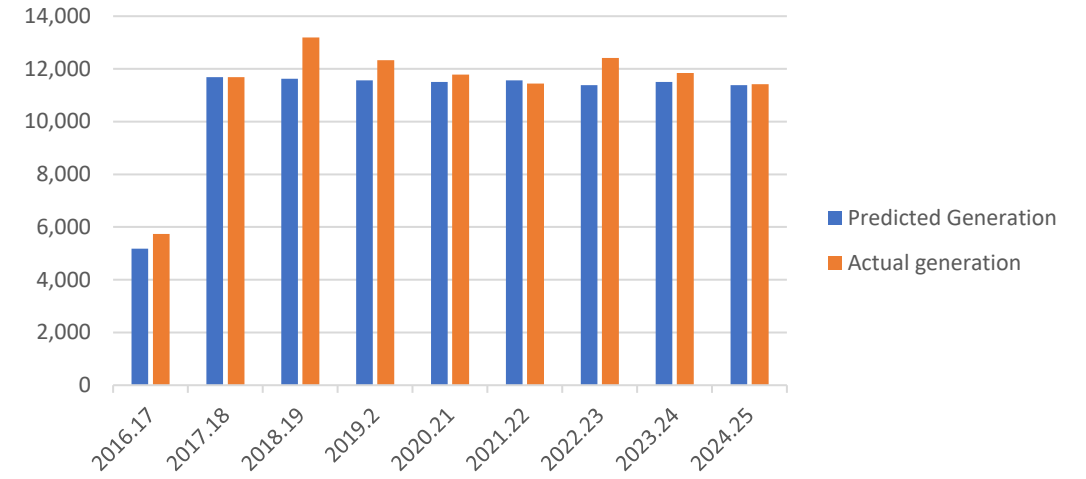
Picture: Caps Cases Ltd, Newmarket

# 12. 4MW Toggam Solar Farm

There are 47,748 solar panels on the 17.55 hectare site, last year it generated 11,420MWh of renewable electricity



Predicted Generation vs Actual Generation in MWh



Solar Farm Income

