



SMALL STEPS - BIG IMPACT

Learn how the council, community and businesses are working together towards becoming a Net-Zero district



Key highlights

It is heartening to witness the strides we, as a council, are making in our journey toward sustainability. Our efforts to continually reduce CO2 emissions are yielding significant results, and it is beginning to pay dividends, both environmentally and economically.

We take immense pride in being a steadfast supporter of local businesses, many of which have accessed grants to implement their own green initiatives. This collective movement towards sustainability is not only beneficial for the environment but also fosters economic growth and innovation within our community.

Our communities have also seen substantial benefits from funding directed towards various eco-friendly projects. These include the installation of solar panels, the creation of orchards, and the development of communal spaces for gatherings. Such initiatives not only improve our environment but also enhance the quality of life for our residents.

While we acknowledge that there is still much work to be done, it is truly inspiring to see how our collective small steps are starting to make a significant impact. Together, we are forging a path towards a greener, more sustainable future for West Lindsey. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this vital cause.



Working together to improve our district

Cllr Stephen Bunney, Chairman of the Environment, Climate and Sustainability Working Group



Cyclist enjoy the Viking Way

Celebrate the Great Outdoors

Residents and visitors to West Lindsey were encouraged to embrace the beauty of the great outdoors with a series of exciting events and initiatives. From walking and cycling festivals to training courses and new guides, there was something for everyone to enjoy including:

- Love Lincs Wolds Outdoor Festival, May 24.
- Discover England – How to Attract Walkers and Cyclist (training course) March.
- Development of Churches Guide and annual Churches Festival held in May 24.
- Hidden Gems Leaflet – Highlighting lesser known outdoor spaces.
- Walks and cycle routes highlighted on dedicated section on West Lindsey District Council website - [Walking | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk).

Sustainability

Tackling climate change and protecting our unique natural environment is a top priority for West Lindsey District Council. Here is a summary of our key achievements for 2024.

**Further
5%
reduction**

in Council emissions



8

New strategies adopted this year including sections on mitigating impacts of climate change

1

new ecologist appointed

90%

Of materials in recycling bins are correctly sorted. Right Thing, Right Bin

26

Businesses received bespoke energy advice from Lincolnshire Growth hub

**414
residents**

reached through the LEAD project



1

Love Lincs Wolds Outdoor Festival

£605k

Total value of business sustainability projects with £313k grants awarded



8

Tonnes of CO2 saved from solar panels on HGV's in 23/24

2

Electric vans saved 4 tonnes of CO2 last year.

1

Hidden Gem leaflet promoting outdoor space in the district



12

villages identified for full fibre roll out

20

Schools visited promoting waste awareness

You can find details of grants and what small steps you can take to make a big impact on our environment:
www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/communities-safety/grants-funding

Sustainability

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£401,500



Secured from the swimming Pool Support Fund for solar panels at West Lindsey Leisure Centre

2028



Target to heat the Guildhall using a renewable energy source

70.26

Tonnes of CO2e reductions due to the green energy tariff

20

Businesses received UKSPF Business Sustainability grants

72 Properties

improved through the Eco-flex grant funding initiative.



50

Community events to provide retro-fit & home energy advice

All council owned buildings to have carbon management plans by

2030



Commitment to have a fully decarbonised fleet by

2035

12

People attended a training course on how to attract walkers and cyclists



5

Campaigns including:
Right Thing, Right Bin,
Small Steps - Big Impact,
Flooding awareness
Business and community grants
Free trees for schools

17

E-Business articles relating to net zero/carbon reduction.

You can find details of grants and what small steps you can take to make a big impact on our environment:
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Community focus

Pledges to build a sustainable future.

Visitors to the Lincolnshire Show in West Lindsey made pledges to work towards a more sustainable way of life.

An impressive 148 children and adults took part in the activity. They pledged to conserve energy at home by switching energy providers and use energy efficient appliances. Children promised to turn off lights, unplug gadgets, wear warm sweaters and bike to school.

People said they would walk, bike, carpool, or using public transport more often and create wildlife friendly gardens.

Plastic reduction was high on the agenda, with a collective commitment to eliminate single-use plastics and buy second-hand. While others focussed on creative meal planning and composting to reduce food waste rounded out the commitments. Together, we can build a sustainable future, one pledge at a time.



A total of 148 pledges were made.



Educating on chalk streams

Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds

As part of the partnership the Council has with the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) has been busy working with a variety of different educational establishments throughout 2023-24 to highlight the wonderfully rare chalk streams in Lincolnshire.

With the support of volunteers, the LCSP worked with Kidgate Primary School, Bishop Burton College and supported top student Megan Trindell on her Geography placement from Lincoln University.

The LCSP have also started working with secondary schools, starting with a fabulous day on Waithe Beck with students from Caistor Yarborough Academy.

Great Limber Orchard

Great Limber's community-driven project saw the village community coming together to raise funds and sponsor trees, with additional support from the West Lindsey District Council for the installation of fencing around the orchard.

It has resulted in an enhanced green space and fosters increased engagement with nature.



Community focus

Solar panels save village hall from closing.

A vital community space faced the threat of closure due to skyrocketing electric bills.

However, thanks to an installation of solar panels, the community landmark at Toft Newton has not only been saved but is now set to thrive with sustainable energy.

It has resulted in reduced electric bills, selling power back to the grid, increased sustainability.

The Solar panel installation was funded by West Lindsey District Council Community Grant Scheme and Toft Newton Parish Council.



Reduced energy bills

For information on community grants, visit:

www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/communities-safety/grants-funding/community-action-fund

Air source heat pump installed in resident home



Cutting-edge technology used to transform heating system.

An elderly resident who heated her home with a small portable heater has welcomed a new energy efficient solution.

The resident moved home to find the only source of heating for the property was the underfloor heating, which had broken and expensive to fix.

The property was upgraded with an air source heat pump, thanks to the Lincs 4 Warmer Homes and the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG 2). The result was immediate: consistent warmth, reduced energy bills, and a significant decrease in environmental impact.

Lincs 4 Warmer Homes supports residents to insulate their homes properly to ensure that heat doesn't escape the house. They explore a 'fabric first' approach looking at loft insulation and different types of wall insulation based on the property.

This innovative solution has not only improved the residents quality of life but is also an inspiring example of how modern technology and available funding can transform homes and promote sustainability.

To find out more, visit:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/housing-homelessness/energy-efficiency/lincs-4-warmer-homes>

Community focus

Cherry Fields triumphs at Environmental Awards

Cherry Fields in Cherry Willingham has been crowned the winner of the 2024 Lincolnshire Environmental Awards.

This project impressed the judges with its balance of serving the local community and nature. Cherry Fields' approach, included woodlands, wildflower meadows, a fruit orchard, wildlife ponds, and recreational areas.

Since the land was acquired by Cherry Willingham Parish Council in 2016, volunteers have planted nearly 10,000 native trees and shrubs, and created several diverse habitats.

The site now features a cycle track, picnic spots, a popular dog exercise area, and community allotments. Its early vision, rooted in a 2013 survey, emphasised reconnecting with the River Witham and providing ample green space for residents.

The success of Cherry Fields is a testament to the power of community collaboration and respect for nature.



Award winners

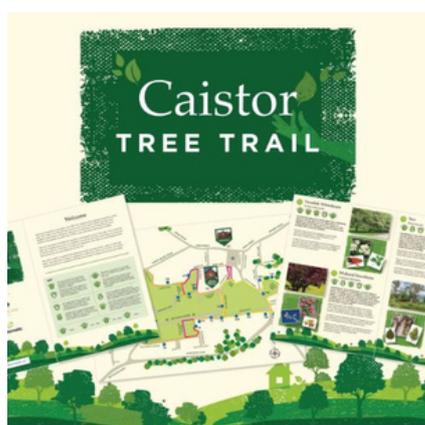
Community orchard project secures Coronation grant.

The Market Rasen Area Environment Group is thrilled to announce that its bid for funding to establish a community orchard has been approved through the Coronation Community Orchard Grant scheme.

The project aims to plant 60, diverse array of fruit trees, including apples, pears, plums, medlars, quince, and mulberry.

With a focus on Lincolnshire varieties, the orchard will not only promote biodiversity and support wildlife but also provide a source of fresh, locally-grown produce for residents.

The project will also create habitats for pollinators and other wildlife, involve the community in planting, maintaining, and enjoying the orchard and provide educational workshops on sustainable horticultural practices. The council supported the group in its application for the grant.



Caistor Tree Trail

The Market a new walking tour of up to two miles around the historic market town that features 27 different species of trees.

A 20-page printed guide supports the trail and is available for just £3, raising funds for [Caistor GO²](#), a group which is on a mission to reduce the town's environmental impact, available at the Caistor Arts and Heritage Centre.

The Tree Trail has been designed to be a self-guided activity for individuals, families, and groups and features some of the UK's oldest species of tree.

Business focus

Enhanced energy storage - advancing towards zero carbon

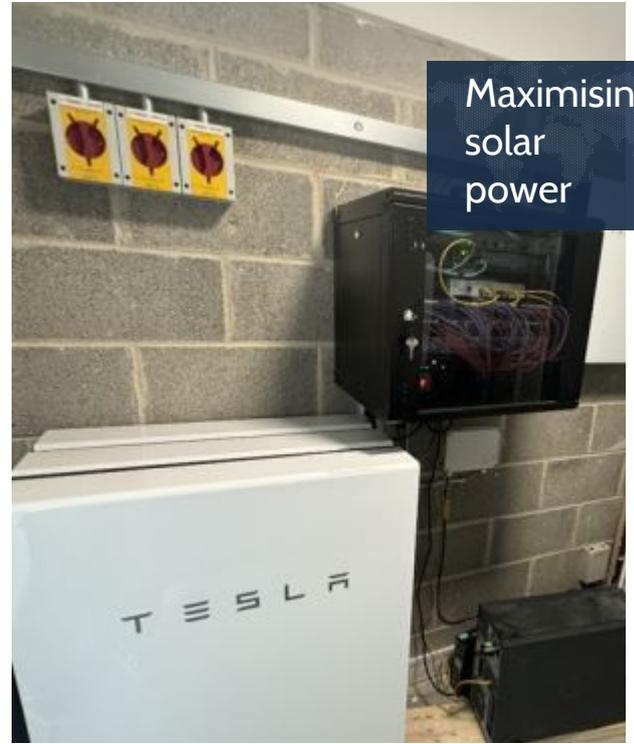
Depot Rail Ltd has installed six Tesla Powerwall 2 batteries, to maximize the use of solar-generated power and propel the company towards its zero-carbon goal.

It was funded by West Lindsey District Council Business Sustainability (Green Growth) grants.

This forward-thinking initiative will harness solar energy more effectively and enhance overall energy utilisation. It is expected to significantly improve energy efficiency and reduce the company's carbon footprint by over 2.5 tonnes of CO2 annually.

Owen Snell, Director of Depot Rail Ltd said: "Our business is continuing to expand, and we intend to try and make our Gainsborough premises zero carbon."

Depot Rail Ltd aims to expand its efforts including potentially increasing solar generation capacity based on data gathered over the forthcoming winter.



Maximising solar power

Business invests in low-carbon measures



Garden Centre: Commitment to Sustainability

Cherry Tree Garden Centre has focused on implementing energy-efficient measures across the centre, starting with a significant upgrade to the coffee shop.

It is taking bold steps toward sustainability by introducing energy-efficient equipment in the coffee shop and investing in several key areas to enhance overall energy efficiency.

This includes the transition to LED Lighting, installation of systems to collect and utilise rainwater and the replacement of old commercial kitchen equipment with energy-efficient models.

These investments funded by West Lindsey District Council Business Sustainability (Green Growth) grants, are expected to result in annual energy savings of over 17,000 KWh and a reduction in CO2 emissions by approximately 3,300kg per year.

Michael Frecklington, Owner of Cherry Tree Garden Centre said: "We are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the business and improving energy efficiency."

For information on grants, eligibility and support, visit:
www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/business-services-support

SMALL STEPS - BIG IMPACT

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

For inspiration, ideas and grant eligibility, visit:
www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/climate

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