

**Buckingham Town Council  
Climate Emergency Action Plan  
March 2020**



At Full Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Members AGREED:

*“That Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions. Our aim is to make the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030 and encouraging the town’s population, organisation and businesses to work with us in that aim.”*

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Local Councils that have declared a climate emergency tend to do so to provide leadership and help educate their communities about both the threat of and solutions to the climate crisis. This should then act to harness “people power” to make that change possible at all levels, especially driving higher levels of government to act and ultimately force them to pull the economic and legislative levers needed to reverse global warming and restore a safe climate.

This draft action plan sets locally determined actions with measures to deliver the objectives both within the Council and across the town. The actions are measurable with targets that hold the Council to account. This Climate Change Action Plan is an overarching pledge that identifies the following priority areas of change:

**Proposed Objectives**

- a) Energy - to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat.
- b) Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.
- c) Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.
- d) Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water
- e) Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.

## Buckingham Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.		
Action	Measure	Responsibility
Creation of a Climate Emergency webpage, Facebook page and hashtag to enable discussion, idea sharing and extend public awareness of the issues.	Number of visitors per year X per year	Resources Committee
Information can be made available in Buckingham library and on notice boards to maximise public awareness and access to information	Number of contacts made	Resources Committee
Encourage practical action by local people through proactive communication campaigns. Consider creation of an impartial local guide that provides information on accredited local energy assessors and renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV chargers and heat pumps etc.	Number of downloads/copies requested. X per year	TC&E and Environment Committee
Consultation on the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan refresh will enable detailed consultation on the proposed changes.		Planning Committee
Encourage the formation of Local Climate Action Groups.	One formed	Resources Committee

Host a public meeting on the issue.	One per year	Resources Committee
<b>Energy - reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Implement an Energy Audit of all Council buildings, operations and vehicles	Actions implemented	Resources Committee
Change BTC energy provider to renewable/ green tariffs	Moved to green tariffs by 2020/21	Environment Committee
Offset carbon emissions by planting more trees (whenever possible)	One tree planting project per year	Environment Committee
Investigate options for carbon offsetting Town Council event e.g. Bonfire & Fireworks	Publication of carbon Offsetting certification for each relevant event	Town Centre & Event Committee
Minimise the climate impact from development and encourage a low carbon economy through our planning system by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by a low carbon transport infrastructure</li> <li>• Promote sustainable design in and in the overall town by interrogating every planning application (large or small) with our developing set of 'zero carbon planning questions'</li> </ul>	% of new builds in the parish to be low carbon properties	Planning Committee
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Install renewable energy generation on Council owned buildings	Installation of Photovoltaic Panels on all the Lace Hill Centre, The Community Centre and the new cemetery building (once constructed).	Full Council and Resources Committee
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**Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water**

Action	Measure	Responsibility
Provide recycling facilities at all town Council Events.	One bin per event	TC&E Committee
Write to local supermarkets asking for a reverse plastic bottle vending machine in their car parks.	Contact with four large Supermarkets	Environment Committee
Work with and support litter picking initiatives around town including the increased promotion of River rinse.	One Town Council event per year in addition to the two river rinses	TC&E Committee
Investigate the installation of textile recycling banks at Lace Hill SCC car park.	One textile recycling bank	Environment Committee
Consider installing at least one water butt for all new town council buildings and use the water for planters and hanging baskets	One per new build (owned by BTC)	Resources Committee
Fit water saving devices in all town council owned toilets	One per toilet	Environment Committee
Promote the installation of the water bottle refill station in Chandos Park and the national refill initiative	Number of interactions through Social Media	Environment Committee and Resources Committee

Actions implemented to eliminate the use of single-use plastics within Council offices/buildings and continue to promote Plastic-free Buckingham	No purchases of single use plastics	Resources Committee
Implement waste education and promotional campaigns	Number of interactions through social media and with groups including schools	Resources Committee
Request a carbon footprint of any Town Council investment and seek to reduce this by switching to investments supporting renewable energy projects and eco-enhancements.	Measure and publish low carbon emission certification	Resources Committee
Buy local, fair-trade, recycled, plastic free, repairable and sustainable products wherever possible/available.	Consideration of a procurement strategy	Resources Committee
Ask grant applicants to consider the impact on the environment of their project and any steps they can take to mitigate them. Members to consider these responses when allocating grant funds.		Resources Committee
<b>Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Review of HGV restrictions in the town to ensure the largest number are implemented and enforced		Planning Committee
Explore more bike parking facilities around the town, including local schools and businesses.	5 more racks by 2021	Planning Committee
Consider holding an event that promotes cycling around the town	To be considered on a future agenda of TC&E 2019/20	Town Centre & Events Committee

Replace BTC owned vehicles and green spaces equipment with suitable electric models when existing petrol, and diesel vehicles come to the end of their usable life, resulting in full replacement with electric vehicles by 2030.	Replace each vehicle at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee
Refurbish and promote the town's benches to assist walkers to take short rests. Advertise with signs 'pedestrian friendly town'	Replace each bench at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee
Work with Buckinghamshire Council to extend/improve cycle/ walking network		Full Council
Work with Buckinghamshire Council on increasing EV charge points on public land		Full Council

**Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Finalise Flood Plans with local partners	Number of contacts established	Environment & Resources Committee
Advise residents on steps to increase resilience	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee
Promote the community flood warden scheme	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee
Protect and enhance native species and habitats. Promoting and support opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration	One environmental campaign per year	Environment Committee
Support local food production including the provision of more allotments for people to grow their own food.	Number of allotment holders at the Tingewick Road Allotment site	Full Council
Seek adequate garden space or community spaces for growing food in all future development.	One community space per new development	Full Council an Planning Committee

Purchase (where possible) locally produced and fair-trade food for the Council's use and civic events.	All BTC events	Town Centre & Events Committee
Review of grass verges and hedges to identify areas to be trimmed less and later in the year to support more wildflowers and insects	To be considered within Greenspaces Strategy and Management Plan for Parks	Environment Committee
Each year allocate a section of land to be planted with wildflowers.	One per year	Environment Committee
Plan a new eco-friendlier cemetery to include planting more trees and wildflowers.	Measure and publish plans and low carbon emission certification	Environment Committee
Research new grasses that can be planted to absorb and trap more carbon in their roots and sow them in public spaces and new developments.	Future agenda of Environment Committee 2019/20	Environment Committee
Work with the Tree Wardens, in promotion of the Tree Charter, to register key trees on the Woodland Trust's inventory of Ancient Trees and consider any new TPOs	10 new trees registered	Environment Committee
Look to legally protect the future of the riverside parks in Buckingham, including Chandos Park, Bourton Park and Heartlands as parkland.	Future agenda of Environment Committee 2019/20	Planning Committee and Environment Committee
Ask grant applicants to consider the impact on the environment of their project and any steps they can take to mitigate them. Members to consider these responses when allocating grant funds.		Resources Committee