



**Buckingham Town Council
Climate Emergency Action Plan Updated
April 2022**

At Full Council on the 15th 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.”

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 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 Emergency Action Plan is an over-arching pledge that identifies the following priority areas of change:

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's 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	Update
1.	Creation of a Climate Emergency webpage to enable discussion, idea sharing and extend public awareness of the issues.	Number of visitors per year	Resources Committee	Feedback from the public meeting is to be added to the website. Creation of a link to the section on the climate emergency on the council's website should be promoted by a permanent banner at the top of the home page and the website pages relating to the environment should be more interactive to encourage more public involvement.
2.	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	Investigate a display for Summer 2022
3.	Encourage practical action by local people through proactive communication campaigns.	Number of visitors per year to webpage	TC&E and Environment Committee	Monthly social media content planning sessions allow for a



				<p>regular programme of environmental campaigns and initiatives</p> <p>The office has engaged with local schools to discuss our Action Plan and how they can get involved in community climate action. It is suggested that the office contract local schools and ask what additional information/input they would like from the Town Council.</p> <p>As a way of generating further engagement, competitions and awards for innovative approaches to tackle the climate emergency should be promoted by the council.</p>
4.	Consultation on the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan refresh will enable detailed consultation on the proposed changes.		Planning Committee	Consultation to be rolled out in Summer 2022.
5.	Encourage the formation of Local Climate Action Groups.	One formed	Climate Champions	Due to lack of interest, it is suggested this action is revisited in 2023.



6.	Host a public meeting on the issue.	One per year	Climate Champions	It is suggested that the Town Council host an information stall on climate change at every public event in Buckingham, as deemed appropriate. Feedback from each event is to be reviewed in line with the objectives of the Climate Emergency Action Plan's objectives.
Energy - reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
7.	Implement an Energy Audit of all Council buildings, operations and vehicles	Actions implemented	Resources Committee	Eco Audit is currently taking place across a number of stages. It is hoped that a final report will be ready for late Spring 2022.
8.	Change BTC energy provider to renewable/ green tariffs	Moved to green tariffs by 2022/23	Environment Committee	Solar Panels installed October 2021 at Lace Hill.



9.	Offset carbon emissions by planting more trees (whenever possible)	One tree planting project per year	Environment Committee	This year's event took place on the 16 th Jan 2022 to coincide with arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee/Commonwealth Canopy Project. There were 250 trees planted, including 12 x Black Poplars. An additional tree planting was undertaken by the Greenspaces Team at Lace Hill sport pitches on 17/02/2022 including 7 x Silver birch, 3 x Gingko and expansion of the hedge line with 125 hornbeam whips.
10.	Investigate the environmental impact of Town Council events	Publication of Environmental Impact Assessment for each relevant event	Town Centre & Event Committee	To be scoped within the Eco Audit
11.	Minimise the climate impact from development and encourage a low carbon economy through our Neighbourhood Development Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by a low carbon transport infrastructure • Promote sustainable design in and in the overall town by interrogating every planning application 	% of new builds in the parish to be low carbon properties	Planning Committee	To be considered through consultation on the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan refresh. Consultation to be rolled out in Summer 2022.
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	<p>(large or small) with our developing set of 'zero carbon planning questions'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting against the needless destruction and/or removal of tree from our parish 			Draft design guide prepared which takes account of this.
12.	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	<p>Greenway Solar Panels commissioned and installed 55 Trina Solar Vertex S 380W all black split cell mono photovoltaic (solar) panels at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre.</p> <p>Plans in place to install Solar Panels on the Tingewick Road Cemetery building.</p>
<p>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</p>				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Update
13.	Provide recycling facilities at all Town Council Events and within Town Council owned buildings.	One mixed recycling bin per event	TC&E /Environment	Recycling bins are now being provided at all Town Council events. In particular, noting the success of recycling Biffa bins at Music in the Market & Bandjam.



				Recycling in all BTC offices (including Lace Hill Centre's public areas) now implemented.
14.	Work with and support litter picking initiatives around town including the increased promotion of annual River rinse events.	One Town Council event per year in addition to the two annual river rinses.	TC&E Committee	<p>Quick Litter Pick project launched in Bourton Park in June 2020 and second bin to be placed in Chandos Park.</p> <p>Litterlotto scheme to be publicised in conjunction with the Chandos Park Quick Litter Pick bin.</p> <p>April 2022 - Assisted Lace Hill primary school with advice and the supply of litter pickers for this year's Great Big School Clean.</p> <p>Buckingham Community Board (from the Build Back Better fund) are donating: <i>50 x litter pickers and hoops</i> <i>100 x rolls of biodegradable bin bags (these come in boxes of 20)</i> <i>50 x hi-vis</i> <i>50 sets of gloves</i> <i>2 x pop-up storage bins</i></p>



				All of the equipment will be housed at the Town Council's depot for community use.
14	Investigate possibilities of rainwater harvesting for all new town council buildings and use the water for planters and hanging baskets	One per new build (owned by BTC)	Resources Committee	To be considered within the construction design stage of the new cemetery buildings. Resources 5/7/21 all Town Council owned buildings are considered for retrofitting rainwater harvesting for watering the town's planters and hanging baskets.
15.	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	COMPLETE <u>Water bottle refill station</u> installed and positively received.
16.	Actions implemented to eliminate the use of single-use plastics within Council offices/buildings.	No purchases of single use plastics	Resources Committee	The Council no longer purchases single use plastic items for events and for use within its offices. This is written within the town Council's Sustainable Purchasing Policy. The plastic-free message was promoted as part of the 'Rubbish Campaign' and launch of the water bottle refill station in Chandos Park. Example: Tetrapack



				water 'bottles' have been purchased for staff use at this year's Celebrate Buckingham.
17.	Implement waste education and promotional campaigns	Number of interactions through social media and with groups including schools	Resources Committee	October's Local Democracy Week was focus on Climate Change and the office met with both senior schools to further discuss how they can get involve in Climate Community Action. The Office Apprentice ran a Recycling Mosaics competition with the Buckingham School to create artworks for display in the Tourist Information Centre.
18.	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	To be considered within the forthcoming Eco Audit commissioned by Resources.
19.	Buy local, fair-trade, recycled, plastic free, repairable and sustainable products wherever possible/available.	Consideration of a procurement strategy	Resources Committee	Wherever possible sustainable materials will always be sourced from local providers. July 2021: Full Council adopted a <u>Sustainable Purchasing and Procurement Policy</u>



20.	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	From 2021/21 each applicant must state how their organisation is working to reduce the environmental impact of their project.
Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
21.	Explore more bike parking facilities around the town, including local schools and businesses.	5 more racks by 2021	Planning Committee	All new development housing has either a shed big enough to house a bike, or (for flats) a room for cycle parking, generally at the rate of 1 per flat. Funding for three new bike racks in Bourton Park 2022.
22.	Consider holding an event that promotes cycling around the town	To be considered on a future agenda of TC&E	Town Centre & Events Committee	An electric bike company invited to the Spring Green fair in April 2022 with demo models.
23.	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	Electric vans (total - two Renault Kangoo) leased in Winter 2019 and Summer 2020. Aim for full replacement of all vehicles with electric



				alternatives by 2030. Once the new cemetery is up and running there are plan to purchase other electric powered machinery, such as ride-on mowers.
24.	Refurbish and promote the town's benches to assist walkers to take short rests. Advertise Buckingham as a 'pedestrian friendly town' on the Council's <u>'Walks and Maps'</u> section of the website.	Replace each bench at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee	Walking trails regularly promoted via <u>Buxplore</u> along with healthy outdoor activities. Greenspaces team have refurbished or repaired a number of park benches throughout the town and funding has been approved for another 8 benches/picnic tables via the Buckingham & Villages Community Board.
25.	Work with Buckinghamshire Council to extend/ improve cycle/ walking network		Full Council	The Greenspaces Team have maintained walking and cycling routes across BTC land holdings and under agreement with others. The Town Council have provided feedback to Buckinghamshire Council to support the introduction of a cycle scheme between Gawcott and



				<p>Buckingham via the Emergency Active Travel fund.</p> <p>The Greenspaces Team are preparing a bid to the community board for the installation of 3 bike rack in Bourton Park.</p>
26.	Work with Buckinghamshire Council on increasing EV charge points on public land		Full Council	<p>Initial contact has been made with electric vehicle Induction charging company (Char.gy) to identify potential solutions.</p> <p>Chandos Road -street parking is being considered for a piolet project.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council have agreed to install 8 charging points in Cornwall's Meadow and Western Avenue.</p>
Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
27.	Finalise Flood Plans with local partners	Number of contacts established	Environment & Resources Committee	Meetings have been held between



28.	Advise residents on steps to increase resilience	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	Buckinghamshire Council and the Town Council to discuss how to ensure a coordinated response to future flood plans. Flooding advice has been added to the town council website. All properties at risk will be written to each year with details of the Council's plan and sources of support.
29.	Promote the community flood warden scheme	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	Installation of <u>wildflower boards</u> in Bourton Park to promote the planting of native wildflower species (April 2021). Thousands of native <u>Woodland bulbs</u> were planted around Bourton Park in September 2020. For 2022 the popular wild flower, meadow in Bourton Park will be reseeded with native flowering wildflowers. Within the Autumn 2022, additional bulb planting will be planned for sections of Lace Hill, the Holocaust Memorial and Otters Brook Play Area.
30.	Protect and enhance native species and habitats. Promoting and supporting opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration	One environmental campaign per year	Environment Committee	



				Three new bird boxes are installed in Bourton Park by volunteer, Michael hunt. Providing nesting sites for small birds.
31.	Support local food production including the provision of more allotments for people to grow their own food.	Number of allotment holders at the new Tingewick Road Allotment site	Full Council	The Town Council continues to signpost new applicants to the Allotment society and <u>Edible Woodland</u> and is working with Buckinghamshire Council on potential sites for community gardening sites in 2022.
32.	Seek adequate garden space or community spaces for growing food in all future development.	One community space per new development	Full Council and Planning Committee	To be reviewed within the refresh of the NDP
33.	Purchase (where possible) locally produced and fair-trade food for the Council's use and civic events.	All BTC events	Town Centre & Events Committee	Incorporated within planning for all Town Council events. Referencing the town Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy
34.	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	The grass cutting plan is reviewed annually by Environment Committee in March. The paddocks and sections of the bypass are cut later in the year to support and promote biodiversity. There will be three large sections of the Bypass



				planted with wildflower seed, the rotavated sections are now visible along the bypass.
35.	Each year allocate a section of land to be planted with wildflowers.	One per year	Environment Committee	A new section of <u>wildflowers was planted</u> in 2020 in Bourton Park, on the car park side of the river. Plans are in place to 're-wild' sections of verge along the bypass with wildflowers and grasses during 2022. Wildflowers to be distributed at Spring Green Fair – April 2022.
36.	Plan a new eco-friendlier cemetery to include planting more trees and wildflowers.	Measure and publish plans and low carbon emission certification	Environment Committee	Proceeding with the tender process for the first phase of the planning and design of the new cemetery. To enable this a sustainable design approach is to be taken in all aspects of the new cemetery. In particular; to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat as well as recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water.



37.	Work with the Tree Wardens, in promotion of the Tree Charter.	5 new Tree Wardens signed up per year.	Environment Committee	Tree Wardens are regularly contact by the Planning Clerk for input into Tree Applications and several Wardens took part in January's tree planting event in Heartlands Park.
38.	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	To be reviewed following resolution of devolution discussions.