



Climate Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change. The 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C' stated human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0 degrees C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The IPCC stress the importance of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Cornwall Council

In January 2019 Cornwall Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' in recognition of the need to take urgent action and set an ambitious target for the County to work toward becoming carbon neutral by 2030. In July 2019 Cornwall Council unanimously approved its Climate Action Plan and it is now working on a new Climate Change Development Plan to 'strengthen existing policies, create new ones and make allocations that address the climate change issues affecting Cornwall'.

Carn Brea Parish Council

Carn Brea Parish Council has declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to work towards creating its own Climate Action Plan. This document is the second Draft. It sets out (1) the actions that the Council itself can take in respect of how it manages its own affairs and (2) how it intends to support initiatives in the wider community in the Parish to help mitigate and reduce the impact of Climate Change.

KEY GOALS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Declare a Climate Emergency

Show commitment to the community, support other local Councils and join the body of Councils demanding meaningful action from Westminster.

2. Take responsibility for the impact of Council decisions

Ensure that all policies and decisions of the Council are informed and led by the impact they will have on securing a safer and better future for the Parish within the context of a Climate Emergency.

3. Short-term actions

Instigate the actions that can be taken by the Council almost immediately for little or no cost and that will have an immediate impact. (see below)

4. Medium and long-term goals

Agree to undertake policies and projects that may take more resources to achieve or need to be planned further in advance. (see below)

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

To be initiated as soon as possible by the Council:

- (a) Agree to support the target set out by Cornwall Council in its Climate Change Plan (July 2019) and agree that the Council will be net carbon neutral by 2030.
- (b) Establish CBPC's current carbon output and carry out an annual audit to ensure year on year improvement.
- (c) Join the CPIR and Mining Villages Climate Action Network and allocate a Councillor lead to link with the Network and the Council.
- (d) Switch to a renewable energy supplier for the Council's power supplies.
- (e) Install LED/low energy bulbs in the Council's property.
- (f) Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle. Minimise the amount of printed matter and where this is essential use recycled paper and recycle all waste.
- (g) Use recycled paper and environmentally friendly cleaning products in the Parish Offices.
- (h) Stop the use of harmful weedkillers and chemicals in parks, green spaces, verges and paths.
- (i) Use public noticeboards to promote awareness and environmental initiatives.
- (j) Commit to using local suppliers wherever possible for the supply of goods and services and consider potential carbon emissions, not just pricing when awarding contracts.
- (k) Commit to minimising the impact of Councillors' activities on the environment, such as avoiding unnecessary carbon miles.
- (l) Maximise the use of social media platforms to be involved with the community. Accepting that not all residents will have access to social media use printed matter sparingly.
- (m) Make use of opportunities to be involved with other Town/Parish Councils, Cornwall Council and National Government to promote policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change. Link with other organisations to share expertise, experience and knowledge.
- (n) Ensure that the Neighbourhood Development Plan supports high standards of energy efficiency and includes renewable energy in residential and commercial buildings. Include in the NDP provision for clean energy schemes, renewable energy projects and electric car charging points.

Approved by Full Council on 16th June 2022 – Minute Number 22/06/11

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM ACTIONS

The Council has an important role to play in achieving these goals by embedding them in its own policies and actively supporting initiatives designed to meet them. Some of the actions below might be outside the direct remit of the Council but they could be explored in more detail by the Council.

Policy 1. Guiding and Supporting our Community.

The Parish Council will work to guide and support our community so that residents and others can take the actions necessary to reduce their carbon output, and try to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council will

- (1) Work with other town/parish councils, Cornwall Council and National Organisations to promote actions, policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change, sharing information and experience.
- (2) Promote initiatives in our newsletter, on social media and our notice Boards highlighting the message of climate change.
- (3) Help promote and support events to raise awareness, educate and advise the community.
- (4) Encourage as many people as possible to calculate their carbon footprint.
- (5) Work with schools and community groups within the parish to raise awareness of climate change issues.
- (6) Support the actions of the CPIR Climate Action Group.

Policy 2. Reducing Consumption and Waste.

The Council will support initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill from the Parish.

The Council will

- (1) Continue efforts to reduce its own waste.
- (2) Request Cornwall Council to provide strategically placed local recycling facilities.
- (3) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

This may include

- a. Supporting Parish Councils in lobbying for recycling points in parishes.
- b. Increasing household recycling rates
- c. Community composting schemes
- d. Possible sites for allotments
- e. Advice sessions for recycling, composting, food growing
- f. Group visit to recycling/recovery/green waste facilities
- g. Repair/reusing projects
- h. Plastic free initiatives
- i. Community litter picking
- j. Link with SW Water and promote water saving
- k. Community fridge/larder – sharing surplus food

Policy 3. Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Clean Energy.

The Council will promote initiatives to reduce the use of energy originating from fossil fuels and encourage the generation of clean energy within the parish.

The Council will

- (1) Support planning applications that optimise the use of good environmental design, technology and materials which minimise the carbon cost of the building itself and the lifetime running costs.
- (2) Support initiatives to increase environmental standards in planning reforms and local plans.
- (3) Support suitable sites for renewable energy projects.
- (4) Fit PIR sensors to reduce our usage of electric lighting.
- (5) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

This may include

- a. Encouraging households to check the energy efficiency of their homes
- b. Promote grants available to improve energy performance of buildings and provide assistance with applications for those that need it
- c. Support the transition to low carbon heating for homes to reduce or eliminate coal and oil usage.
- d. Run DIY demonstration sessions in typically constructed homes to show how they can be made more energy efficient and reduce the cost of fuel bills, such as draughtproofing doors and windows
- e. Hire a thermal imaging camera to show heat loss on buildings
- f. Encourage people to switch to a 100% renewable supplier for electric and gas supply
- g. Explore options with potential suppliers for a community rate for renewable power.
- h. Establish a project team to explore the potential for a community led renewable energy project which would produce energy locally for the benefit of the community.

Policy 4. Protecting Green Spaces.

The Council will work to conserve and improve the natural environment, making space for nature and wildlife through the protection of valued habitats, biodiversity and green spaces whilst safeguarding key landscape features.

The Council will

- (1) Consult with contractors and other stakeholders to manage our green spaces, verges and pathways to maximise carbon reduction and promote biodiversity.
- (2) Identify potential sites for tree planting and bird and insect boxes on land owned by the council and identify land for sale within the parish where this could take place.
- (3) Stop using harmful weed-killers and pesticides on Council owned land and work with partners such as Cornwall Council to reduce mowing and encourage rewilding within the Parish.
- (4) Preserve and protect existing natural wildlife habitats in the parish.
- (5) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

This may include

- a. Community tree planting scheme in conjunction with the Forest for Cornwall scheme.
- b. Encouraging households to eliminate the use of harmful weedkillers and pesticides.
- c. Educational workshops to encourage rewilding of gardens, food growing and planting for biodiversity.
- d. Community growing projects.
- e. Keep streams and waterways free flowing and clear of rubbish.
- f. Consider a scheme to deter hard landscaping and replace non-porous surfaces with porous materials.
- g. Establish corridors for wildlife and space for nature.
- h. Encourage businesses to transform their outdoor spaces to support nature and biodiversity.

Policy 5. Changing how we move around.

The Council will encourage a reduction in dependency on fossil fuels for travel and support the improved safety and accessibility of pedestrian and cycle routes.

The Council will strive to

- (1) Encourage the use of public transport and lobby Cornwall Council for improved bus services to and from the Parish.
- (2) Promote the reduction of car use and encourage car sharing.
- (3) Promote cycling and walking including 'walking to school' initiatives.
- (4) Encourage more cycle parking, such as at leisure and business destinations.
- (5) Support improvements to road safety, such as slowing vehicles down, maintaining safe walking and cycling paths and keeping road signage clear.
- (6) Consider weight/size restrictions for heavy goods vehicles travelling through the Parish.
- (7) Lobby for safe road crossings particularly near schools.
- (8) Work to provide safe and accessible routes connecting key attractions, for example from Heartlands to Carn Brea Leisure Centre.
- (9) Support the Mining Trail Forum in promoting and maintaining the trails.
- (10) Improve signage to, and on, all safe routes.
- (11) Encourage the use of electric cars. Support the provision of sufficient charging points in all new buildings. Consider sites for communal charging points for drivers without off road parking, and visitors.
- (12) Install electric vehicle charging points in the Council car park.
- (13) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

Policy 6. Support Local Businesses.

The Council will encourage the use of local services and products and support local businesses in reducing the environmental impact of their activities.

The Council will

- (1) Undertake to give priority to local suppliers in its procurement process.
- (2) Encourage businesses to become plastic free.
- (3) Support initiatives to welcome visitors such as 'Information Points' and signage and promote environmentally responsible behaviour.
- (4) Support requests for improved technological infrastructure (eg.broadband) to support working from home.
- (5) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

This may include

- a. The creation of a 'Green' directory of local businesses and services.
- b. Carbon audits for businesses.
- c. Re-establish a local produce market, buy local initiatives and a 'use it or lose it' campaign for local shops and amenities.
- d. Seek 'plastic free' status and promote other initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of businesses on the environment.
- e. Support a system for waste food.
- f. Consider introducing a climate charter for local businesses.
- g. Welcome visitors – information boards supporting environmentally friendly behaviour.

Policy 7. Building a Stronger, Healthier and more Resilient Community

The Parish Council recognises that many of the initiatives to tackle the Climate Emergency also reap benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. It will Promote and encourage initiatives which help build a stronger, healthier and more resilient community.

The Council will

- (1) Use meetings, social media, and the CBPC Newsletter to acknowledge and promote initiatives and the positive impacts that they have.
- (2) Consider making more spaces available for sports and exercise, and encourage the installation of green gyms.
- (3) Support events that bring the community together.
- (4) Monitor Cornwall Council's measuring of harmful emissions from motor vehicles at recognised pinch points and support environmentally positive solutions.
- (5) Support the work of the CPIR Climate Group in community led initiatives.

For example

- a. A community transport scheme – helping the more vulnerable to get to essential appointments, and a reduction in multi-vehicle use.
- b. Community Hub – weekly drop-in social events.