

Bridport Town Council
Climate Emergency Action Plan Sept 2019 - Draft v.2
DRAFT
FOR DISCUSSION CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN TASK & FINISH GROUP
SEPTEMBER 12th 2019

Background

During 2019 the impacts of the changing climate have become increasingly visible. Public protests have led to widespread awareness of the risks of further climate change - and the remedies. Governments at all levels around the world are looking to step up their response. Carbon neutrality has now become a mainstream goal.

Bridport Town Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019. The declaration included a commitment to produce a Climate Action Plan within 6 months.

The theory of change behind declaring a climate emergency is so that councils can 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.

Setting tougher targets do not themselves reduce emissions. Action plans must be drawn up to deliver them. The climate crisis demands bigger solutions than we initially thought. We need to see the climate crisis not as a stand-alone issue floating separately from everything else, but as a pressing and central response to promoting health, wellbeing and equality.

As noted by the Governments Committee on Climate Change in it’s Progress Report to Parliament July 2019; there is a “*substantial gap between current plans and future requirements and an even greater shortfall in action*”. Government continues to be off track for the fourth and fifth carbon budgets – on their own appraisal – and the policy gap has widened further in 2019 as an increase in the projection of future emissions has outweighed the impact of new policies.

Even if net zero is achieved globally, our climate will continue to warm in the short-term, and sea level will continue to rise for centuries. We must plan for this reality This requires rapid cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors – including energy, transport, food and agriculture – alongside bolder efforts to maximise the potential of carbon sinks such as woodlands, peatlands and soil. Combating climate change requires unified action across all sectors of society. However, this collective action is precluded by the ‘consensus gap’ between scientific knowledge and public opinion.

This Action Plan for Bridport Town Council is based on a commitment to achieve:

- a) Government legal obligation 80% reduction on 1990 levels by 2050 Or
- b) Government recent commitment to be net carbon zero by 2050 Or
- c) A Net Zero Carbon Bridport by **2030** or 2035?

Scale of the challenge:

Reaching net-zero emissions requires an annual rate of emissions reduction (15 MtCO₂e per year, 3% of 2018 emissions) that is 50% higher than under the UK's previous 2050 target and 30% higher than achieved on average since 1990. This is an indication of how substantial the step up in action must be to cut emissions in every sector.

Reduction targets are especially acute for those sectors such as transport, buildings and agriculture where emissions have not fallen significantly over recent years.

If Bridport is to become a net zero carbon town by 2030 it will require an 81% reduction in carbon emission from the current best estimate of 91,764,775 Kg per year. (figure derived from a carbon calculator populated with national average statistics. (see [carbon calculator report](#).)

Over half of the emissions cuts to reach net-zero emissions require people to do things differently. The public must be engaged in the challenge and both policy and low-carbon products should be designed to reflect this. The Climate Action Task & Finish Group wish to prioritise community engagement, especially engaging young people and supporting education around the required response to the climate crisis.

The success of this Action Plan will be measured in the accelerated implementation of a multitude of practical interventions designed to reduce energy demand, replace fossil fuels with renewable sources and reduce the use of cars as the dominant means of local transport.

Action Plan Objectives:

- 1) **Energy** - to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat needs
- 2) **Transport** – to prioritise walking and cycling, promote public transport and accelerate the switch to electric vehicles
- 3) **Food & Land Use**- to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water and encourage healthy eating and recreation
- 4) **Economy, Housing & Waste** – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate proofed whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials
- 5) **Citizen Engagement** - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and demanding action by others, including industry and government to the climate emergency and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.

Costing this Action Plan:

It is important to offer up a clear sense of what the Climate Emergency Action Plan will cost and how the funding required will be sourced.

Green actions – no budget allocation required

Amber actions– budget required and budgeted for in 2019/2020

Red actions – budget required but costs unknown or not budget for in 2019/20

Budget/ Resources

A meaningful action plan requires commitment of funding and resources, for example:

- Staff/ Councillor/ Volunteer input??? Consider supporting a dedicated staff post to drive climate actions?
- £100k contribution from BTC budget in 2019/2020 to implement BTC led actions?
- £100k contribution from BTC budget 2019/2020 to kickstart a Bridport Climate SMART Crowdfunder site that will generate funding for and awareness of carbon reducing community initiatives. BTC contribution used strategically to fund projects that secure a % of funding from other sources (for example a 65% match rate). More details of how a climate emergency crowdfunder site might operate can be presented to the next Task & Finish Group meeting.

Energy - reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat needs			
<i>Direct Actions BTC estate</i>	<i>Indirect Actions BTC led</i>	<i>Collaborations BTC working with partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Change BTC energy provider to 100% renewable/ green tariffs by 2022	Estimate the current renewable energy generation within the Bridport, set targets for reduction in energy demand and monitor annually	Either establish a new Bridport Community Energy company or work with Dorset Community Energy to promote community and commercial renewable installations in Bridport	
Adopt a 'Climate First' planning policy based on policies in the BANP Promote the 'Design for Living' ambitions set out in the BANP	Exert pressure on Dorset Council and housing developer to include a renewable micro grid as part of Vearse Farm development	Campaign for new build standards to ensure all new homes are ultra-efficient and use low carbon heating from 2025	
Implement Low Carbon Dorset Sustainable Energy Report 2018 recommendations for carbon savings and solar PV installations for BTC Buildings by October 2020	Support 'climate smart' initiatives where the outcomes encourage the community to reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle products	Work with Magna housing to promote retro fit energy conservation to xx% social rent sector in Bridport	
Replace gas fired boiler @ Mountfield with Biomass system by 2025	Support will be given to community scale energy conservation measures, including retro-fit, where local support and viability has been demonstrated	Work with social enterprises to push domestic PV installations in Bridport – for example Solar Streets	
Monitor energy use within all BTC buildings and set energy reduction targets	Support development of the local woodfuel sector by encouraging sustainable timber extraction, hedgerow management, and new planting for both fuel and amenity, and as a means of addressing fuel poverty	Work with social enterprises to push commercial PV installation – for example Green Nation	

Education & Awareness Initiatives:			
<p>Be clear in all BTC communications that policies are not in place to deliver the Government's ambitions on energy efficiency (i.e. to improve all homes to at least 'EPC band C'). Building standards are not sufficiently enforced across the building stock and will need to be strengthened to make UK homes fit for the future. Regulations for the private rented sector prioritise costs for landlords over running costs for renters. MHCLG must play its part, including minimum standards for social housing.</p>	<p>Actively promote improving the energy performance of all housing within Bridport - for example through producing information and running workshops to promote climate smart initiatives and renewable energy installations</p>	<p>Work with Colfox School on Energy Sparks scheme to help reduce carbon</p>	
	<p>Provide guidance / run workshops for owners of listed buildings to promote energy conservation and renewable installations</p>	<p>Support running of an Eco Build open house scheme in 2020 and 2022</p>	

Transport – Prioritise walking and cycling, promote public transport and accelerate switch to electric vehicles			
<i>Direct Actions BTC estate</i>	<i>Indirect Actions BTC led</i>	<i>Collaborations BTC working with partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Replace BTC owned vehicle with suitable electric models when existing petrol, and diesel vehicles come to the end of their usable life	Maintain walking and cycling routes across BTC land holdings and under agreement with others	Work with Dorset Council to extend/ improve cycle/ walking network (see BANP policies and plans)	
Offer cycle to work loans (including electric cycle) to BTC staff	Support the installation of quick charging electric car points where local support or viability has been demonstrated	Work with Dorset Council on increasing EV charge points on public land; contact K.A.Flynn@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
Continue funding of the community bus until 2022	Campaign for a car free day or car free evenings (Fri & Sat eve, 18.00 to 24.00, when shops closed	Work with a social enterprise to establish a Bridport Car Club– see example Co-Wheels from Poole	
Education & Awareness Initiatives:			
Be clear in all BTC communications that surface transport is the largest-emitting sector in the UK, accounting for 23% of UK emissions. Local Authorities have a critical role in reducing carbon impacts of traffic.	Promote cycling and walking as the preferred form of transport around the Bridport (see BANP policies)	Work with a social enterprise to introduce a Town Bike Scheme to Bridport (see Beryl Bikes example - Hereford)	
Be clear in all BTC communications that the governments 'Road to Zero' ambition for a phase-out of petrol and diesel cars by 2040 is too late and plans to deliver it are too vague. A date closer to 2030 would save motorists money, cut air and noise pollution and align to the net-zero challenge	Promote car free streets, car free days, cycle to work summers.		

Food & Land Use- promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water and encourage healthy eating and recreation.			
<i>Direct Actions</i> <i>BTC estate</i>	<i>Indirect Actions</i> <i>BTC led</i>	<i>Collaborations</i> <i>BTC working with partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Draw up or review management plans for all BTC owned Green Space to include maximising re wilding & tree planting opportunities	Promote core sustainable land use message that we need more than just food to survive: we need a stable climate, clean air and water, healthy soils and to restore biodiversity	Work with DWT to promote land management that maximises re wilding & tree planting opportunities	
Adopt a minimum cut verge management policy– maintain 1m margins of all hard surfaces and address any visibility issues otherwise cuts in late July, Oct and/or March each year	Support development of a Woodhub in Bridport as a Timber Fabrication Workspace and driver for more active woodland management and use of locally timber in construction	Work with the Bridport Community Fridge scheme and offer support to new food re use groups	
Use revised procurement policies to support sustainable land use/ food production	Research and publish a Tree Plan for Bridport – what sorts of trees are needed, where best to plant? Aim to increase town tree cover from current 12% to Govt target 16% by 2035		
Avoid generating food waste from council activities/ events/ meetings by supporting Community Fridge/ Food Bank. Any food waste to be composted or go to aerobic digester	Support commitment to ban landfill of biodegradable waste by 2025		
Education & Awareness Initiatives:			
Be clear in all BTC communications that the environment department (Defra) has made it a principle of future reforms that public money should pay for public goods. It is critical that this extends to addressing climate change. Not enough has been done on agriculture, land use or waste. Stronger policies are needed. The current voluntary approach to agriculture emissions three years ago, but no changes have been made and emissions continue to rise.	<p>Let plants grow unless they pose a risk to safety of pedestrians/ cyclists/ drivers – “<i>One small step for Man, One giant leap for insect kind</i>”.</p> <p>Promote low carbon sustainable food production systems – organic, agro forestry and grass fed.</p> <p>Promote low carbon diets - reduced meat, increased plant based protein diets’ to address food poverty, diet related ill health and make healthy, sustainable food available to all</p> <p>Raise awareness of F gases and the need to reduce emissions – in particular from refrigeration and air conditioning</p>	Food and Fun programme with Local Food producers	

Economic, Housing & Waste – support the local economy to ensure homes are climate proofed whilst reducing, re using and recycle materials			
<i>Direct Actions BTC estate</i>	<i>Indirect Actions BTC led</i>	<i>Collaborations BTC working with partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Develop a procurement policy for BTC that supports a net zero carbon future whilst promoting local businesses tackling the climate emergency	Work with DWP for enhanced recycling with greater clarity on what is recycled, where it's recycled & how it's recycled	Work proactively with Bridport Chamber of Trade & Commerce to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ban on SUP use • promote locally produced goods & services • energy reduction measures (i.e keeping doors shut in winter) 	
Complete ban on single use plastic (SUP) across BTC activities	Achieve Plastic Free Town Status by 2020	Work with Bridport Community Land Trust to promote low carbon solutions to housing affordability	
	Work with Neighbourhood Plan JCC/Parishes to promote climate SMART housing policies and actions	Work with local Community Land Trusts to undertaken an alternative master plan for Vearse farm, one that addresses affordability and sustainability, for example see Chorlton CLT	
Education & Awareness Initiatives:			
Be clear in all BTC communications that the government should re introduce the Zero Carbon Homes Policy scrapped in 2014. All new dwellings should generate as much energy on-site – through renewable sources, such as wind or solar power – as they would use in heating, hot water, lighting and ventilation. The policy needs to be supported by tighter energy efficiency standards.			

Citizen Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating the response to the climate emergency whilst building resilience to future climate impacts.			
<i>Direct Actions BTC estate</i>	<i>Indirect Actions BTC led</i>	<i>Collaborations BTC working with partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Review BTC investment policy and di invest from fossil fuel activities	Develop the existing One Planet Living Forum to monitor delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan	Work with Transition Town on	
Make climate impact a key determinant in all grant giving	Establish a People's Panel for deliberations on key climate action questions	Work with Neighbourhood Plan JCC/Parishes to promote climate SMART policies and actions	
	Promote use of carbon calculators/ SMART meters for householders to help drive behavioural change		
Education & Awareness Initiatives:			
Be clear in all BTC communications that we have the technologies to achieve carbon zero. We must work collectively .to make things happen. The shift to carbon zero could be the most exciting opportunity in human history. It offers huge benefits, better housing, affordable, improved transport, improved health, cleaner air and water.	Undertake an active social media programme to promote the Climate Emergency Action Plan Engaging artists to better visualise the transformations required.	Work with other local authorities to share practice and push for national and international support for climate action.	

Drawing Inspiration
Examples from other Local Authorities:

Solar Energy

Green Nation-

<http://www.greennation.co.uk/>

Solar Streets - Frome

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/resilience/solar-streets/>

Energy Saving

EnergySparks - Schools

<https://energysparks.uk/>

Transport

Beryl Bike Scheme – Hereford

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/768/new_bike_share_scheme_for_hereford

Co – Wheels Car Club

<https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/>

Greening development – Chorlton

<https://chorltoncommunityledhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/02-05-Chorlton-CLT-Leaflet-A4-1.pdf>