

SOUTH HILL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change. In the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°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°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 on 23rd February 2023 adopted a new Climate Change Development Plan to 'strengthen existing policies, create new ones and make allocations that address the climate change issues affecting Cornwall'.

South Hill Parish Council

Our Council has also recognised the need to act. The South Hill Climate Change Action Group was formed following a resolution from the Parish Council in January 2020. Sadly this was just prior to the restrictions on physical public meetings imposed by Covid 19, so it was October 2021 before the first meeting was held. Numerous ideas have emerged from the meetings held to date. Those ideas have been consolidated into this document which sets out the goals, actions and policies that South Hill Parish Council is committed to in order to reduce its own carbon footprint and to support initiatives in the wider community to help mitigate and adapt to the impact of Climate Change in our parish. Some of the ideas from the Group are intended to address loss of biodiversity, climate change being only one cause, so this Plan includes measures to improve biodiversity and sustainability generally.

Policies and Plans

The seven Policies set out below are all supported by a set of individual activities, each of which should have measurable targets, owners and delivery date forecasts.

SHORT TERM ACTIO

POLICY 1: SHOWING LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING ACTION

The Parish Council will immediately commit to:

- Pledge to support the target set out by Cornwall Council in its Climate Change Plan (July 2019) and set a target for the Parish to be net carbon neutral by 2030.
- 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.
- Stop the use of weedkillers and other chemicals on all land or property owned or administered by the Council, including but not limited to the play area and recreation field.
- Consider potential carbon emissions and sustainability, not just price, when awarding contracts for the supply of goods and services by prioritising local suppliers.

- Commit to minimising the impact of Parish Councillors' activities on the environment. Eg. avoid unnecessary travel.
- Make use of opportunities to engage with other 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.
- Review the NDP so that it's policies supports high standards of energy efficiency and includes renewable energy in residential and commercial buildings. Include provision for clean energy schemes such as Community-led renewable energy projects and electric car charging.

MEDIUM AND LONGER-TERM GOALS

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. The Climate Change Action Group will monitor the implementation of this Action Plan and gauge the effectiveness of the Plan by measuring the Carbon Footprint of the parish. There is additional information about measuring the Carbon Footprint here [■](#). Some of the actions listed below will be outside the direct remit of the Council and fall within the scope of the Mission, Vision and Aims of South Hill Association for Renewable Energy (SHARE)

Key:

- Indicates direct actions for the Parish Council itself
- Indicates examples of actions that could be taken by SHARE

POLICY 2. ENGAGING AND ENABLING THE COMMUNITY

The Parish Council will commit to engaging with and supporting the community, empowering it to take the actions required to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council will

- Develop a Communication and Outreach Strategy to share information with households, businesses and organisations within the Parish [■](#).
- Engage with other parish councils, Cornwall Council and national organisations to promote actions, policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change, sharing information and experience.
- Combine resources with other parishes and stakeholders for larger cross community events.
- Support St Sampson's Church, with its status as an eco church, to use the building as a place to promote environmental actions and initiatives.
- Promote initiatives in the newsletter and on notice boards.
- Help promote and support events to raise awareness, educate and upskill. Encourage as many people as possible to calculate and understand their personal carbon footprint.

POLICY 3. REDUCING CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

The Parish Council will actively support and promote initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste from the parish.

The Council will

- Continue efforts to reduce its own consumption and waste.
- Engage with Cornwall Council to ensure the recycling service provided by the Council works effectively
- Engage with residents to increase all forms of recycling and reduce waste going to the incinerator.
- Community litter picking

- Support the work of SHARE in community led initiatives


This may include for example:

- Community composting schemes
- Advice sessions -recycling, composting, fruit growing
- Group visits to the incinerator, recycling, recovery and green waste facilities
- Repair/upcycling/reusing projects
- Plastic free initiatives
- Promote water saving
- Promote the sharing of surplus food

POLICY 4. REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND AND PRODUCING CLEAN ENERGY

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

It will

- 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
- Support local and national initiatives to increase environmental standards in planning reforms and local plans
- Support and encourage St Sampson's church to explore and implement green energy solutions, eg. Air source heat pump and roof mounted PV panels.
- Help identify suitable sites for community led renewable energy projects
- Encouraging households to check the energy efficiency of their homes 

- Support the work of the SHARE in community led initiatives

For example:

- Promote grants available to improve energy performance of buildings and provide assistance with applications for those that need it.
- 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. For example, draughtproofing windows and doors
- Loan the thermal imaging camera to show heat loss on buildings
- Encourage people to switch to a 100% renewable supplier for electricity.
- Explore options with potential suppliers for a community rate for renewable power.
- Continue exploring the potential for a community-led renewable energy project which would produce energy locally for the benefit of the community.

POLICY 5. TRANSFORMING GREEN SPACES

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

It will

- formulate a management plan for the recreation field and play area to promote biodiversity and maximise carbon sequestration.
- Seek opportunities for wildflower strips elsewhere in the parish
- Support the work of St Sampson's church in its management of the ancient Churchyard which includes surveying and recording flora and fauna and encouragement of wildlife.
- Promote initiatives such as "No Mow May"
- Support the work of SHARE in community led initiatives


For example:

- Community tree planting schemes, particularly in conjunction with the Forest for Cornwall initiative.

POLICY 6. CHANGING HOW WE MOVE AROUND

The Parish Council will work to help reduce dependency on fossil fuels for travel and improve safety and accessibility of pedestrian and cycle routes.

It will strive to:

- Encourage the use of public transport and lobby Cornwall Council for improved bus services to and from the parish.
- Promote the reduction of car use and encourage car sharing.
- Promote cycling and walking
- Provide more cycle parking
- Improve safety for all road users
- Encourage the use of electric cars.
- Aspire to all new buildings having sufficient charging points to meet future needs.
- Promote schemes for shared use of charging points 

POLICY 7. SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Parish Council will encourage the use of local services and products and work closely with local businesses to help them to reduce the environmental impact of their activities.

It will

- Engage with the parish businesses, including the farming community and encourage them to reduce their carbon footprints.
- Raise awareness of "Food Miles" and signpost local food producers
- Support schemes to provide fibre broadband to facilitate working from home