

ST JUST TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY INITIAL SHORT-TERM ACTION PLAN



BACKGROUND TO PLAN

On 25 February, this Council resolved to join other councils in declaring a climate emergency and agreed to the three commitments:

1. When it owns buildings, following devolution, it will look at how to reduce energy and water consumption and consider carefully where it buys its energy, consistent with this declaration;
2. Over the remainder of this administration, as opportunities arise, it will review policies, procedures and contracts to minimise the council's impact on the local environment and the planet;
3. Engage with residents and others to learn and strive to reduce our carbon footprint, including considering the LGA guide to Councillors.

This draft plan seeks Town Councils approval for short term actions and an agreement for other areas to be further explored and a longer-term plan agreed over the next 6 months.

SHORT TERM ACTIONS (immediate/ next 6 months)

- Form a **Climate / Environment Action Group** comprising St Just Town Councillors & local residents and experts to focus on addressing the acknowledged environmental crisis, explore ideas and prioritise actions. The group should feedback regularly to full council and work to finalise a longer-term Climate Action plan.
- The Council's property committee must consider buildings and land owned or being transferred to it and make recommendations to Full Council on ensuring energy and water efficiency, considering a suitable renewable energy supplier and opportunities for generating electricity and using grey water. The committee should also review its management of land to ensure we, in future, maximise habitat diversity that ensure Pollinators and other wildlife thrive.
- Council commits to work with local residents, community groups and businesses in making advice and information available on how our community can reduce their carbon footprint, energy and water needs as well as turning mowed green deserts into areas of biodiversity.
- Review our office workings and the operations of the library and toilets when devolved, to ensure we reduce, re-use and recycle waste and use environmentally sustainable cleaning and hygiene products.
- Ensure that any Town Council organised events use locally sourced food, wherever possible and avoid single use tableware.

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- When awarding contracts for goods and services, ensure that our commitment to reducing our environmental impact is taken into account in terms of quality criteria, alongside price.
- Work with the Tin Coast Partnership in encouraging sustainable tourism through the partnership's work with CoAST.
- Work with the Neighbourhood Development plan steering group to ensure the developing Neighbourhood plan includes policies to encourage renewable energy and highly energy efficient homes that reduce fuel poverty. Also encourage the steering group to consider an environmental policy based on 'net gain' to ensure biodiversity through planting, hedges and open spaces whilst maximising opportunities to reduce flood risks.

TO BE EXPLORED FURTHER AND THEN AGREED

- By October 2019 a draft Climate and Sustainable Community Action plan should be presented to Full Council for its consideration, finalisation and implementation.
- Explore opportunities to install electric car charging points.
- Explore the possibilities to reduce car use, through car sharing and public transport and encourage a possible electric bike hire/ sharing scheme. This to be done in conjunction with the Tin Coast Partnership.
- Explore options to install water fountains and/or an advertised/ marketed water bottle re-fill scheme through local businesses.