

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan



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On the 16th February 2022 Dawley Hamlets Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency. The following action plan details how Dawley Hamlets Parish Council intend to deal with the Climate Emergency by reducing carbon emissions and encouraging key partners and local residents and organisations to take action. These actions are broken down into two categories; Short-term actions (quick wins) which can be taken by the Parish Council almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact and medium/longer-term goals which may take more resources to achieve or need to be planned further in advance.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

To be initiated as soon as possible:

- Pledge to support the target set out by Telford and Wrekin Council in its Climate Change Action Plan to be net carbon neutral by 2030
- Continue to nominate a lead Climate Change Councillors annually to represent the Parish Council on T&WCs Climate Change Working Group – currently Cllrs L Parker and S Wennington
- Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle including minimising the amount of printed matter produced and using recycled products where possible
- Use the Council website, social media and public notice boards engage the community and promote awareness and environmental initiatives
- Commit to using local suppliers wherever possible for the supply of goods and services and consider potential carbon emissions not just price when awarding contracts
- Consider the impact on the climate when considering planning applications
- Consider the impact on the climate when considering grant applications
- Commit to minimising the impact of Parish Councillors' and the Clerk's activities on the environment e.g. avoid unnecessary travel
- Make use of opportunities to engage with other Parish Councils, T&WC 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

MEDIUM/LONG-TERM GOALS

These goals will take longer to achieve and some may not be achievable without the support of other individuals or organisations:

1. Engaging and Enabling the Community

- Engage with other parish councils, T&WC and national organisations to promote actions, policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change, sharing information and experience

- Promote initiatives in the newsletter and social media and notice boards
- Help promote and support events to raise awareness, educate and upskill
- Engage with the school and other community groups and local stakeholders
- Support the actions of the Climate Action Network

2. Reducing Consumption and Waste

- Support and promote initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill from the Parish
- Continue the Council's own efforts to reduce its own consumption and waste
- Engage with T&WC to secure strategically placed local recycling facilities
- Support local initiatives such as recycling, composting, food growing, repair/upcycling and reusing projects and community litter picking

3. Reducing Energy Demand and Producing Clean Energy

- 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
- Promote grants available to improve energy performance of existing homes and businesses
- Support local and national initiatives to increase environmental standards in planning reforms and local plans

4. Transforming Green Spaces

- Consult with T&WC, contractors and other stakeholders to formulate a plan to manage green spaces, verges and pathways to reduce carbon and promote biodiversity
- Identify potential sites for tree planting, and bird and insect boxes
- Stop using weed killers and pesticides on Council owned land and work with T&WC and stakeholders to reduce mowing, monitor, preserve and protect existing natural wildlife habitats and encourage rewilding within the Parish
- Support community led initiatives such as tree planting scheme, educational workshops to encourage rewilding of gardens, food growing and planting for biodiversity and community growing projects
- Encourage households to eliminate the use of weed killers and pesticides
- Establish corridors for wildlife and space for nature for example pocket park
- Give consideration to landscaping schemes when considering planning applications

5. Changing How We Move Around

- Promote cycling and walking (including walk to school initiatives)
- Improve safety. Slow vehicles down, maintain safe walking paths and keep road signage clear
- Support the improvement of the public transport infrastructure
- Encourage the use of electric cars. Aspire to all new buildings having sufficient charging points to meet future needs. Consider sites for communal charging points for homes without off road parking, and for visitors

6. Support Local Businesses

- Support and promote existing and new local businesses
- Undertake to give priority to local suppliers in its own procurement process

7. Building a Stronger, Healthier and More Resilient Community

- Use meetings and social-media to acknowledge and promote initiatives and the positive impacts that they have

- Look for opportunities to engage with younger members of the community and understand their needs
- Make grants available and work with voluntary and community groups to enable action on climate change
- Support events that bring the community together
- Include climate emergency considerations in all key new Parish Council policies and plans
- Embed climate change into the Council's planning process