

Wem Area Climate Change Action Plan

The Need

Wem Town Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' at its meeting held on 25th April 2019.

The key aims of the action plan are as follows:

- To help move towards Wem and surrounding area being a net-zero carbon producer by 2030 but ideally as soon as possible;
- To increase local resilience to climate impacts;
- To maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- To request that the UK Government provide the support and resources to make this possible;
- Work with other organisations, such as Wem Economic Forum, Neighbouring Councils and local businesses and organisations to raise awareness and help counter climate change;

Outlined below is a number of suggested actions that can be taken on by the Town Council and wider community that will help to achieve the carbon neutral status

It is suggested that once adopted the plan is monitored every 3 months to ensure it is up to date and relevant.

Activity	Action	Current status	Lead Contact
Call on The Government to provide powers and resources to make carbon neutral status possible	Letter to be drafted. Email sent to ALC to be circulated to all councils with a view to producing a joint letter		Chris Mellings to draft letter Clerk to liaise with Local Councils
Sign up to The Covenant of Mayors	Details of how to do this https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/join/join-as-a-signatory.html Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessments - required Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plans – required (SECAP)		Clerk / Mayor Meeting held on 10.7.19 with Simon Ross from Marches Energy Agency to discuss how to produce a climate change risk assessment and action plan.
Carbon Neutral Activities			

Current status	Identify how much Carbon the Town Council uses	Marches Energy Agency have submitted proposal	Sustainability Officer iSam Kirby Bray to attend meeting 22.7.19
Climate Change Proofing	All new services / facilities taken on by WTC will have to have an environmental audit as part of the due diligence process and an action plan created to progress	Future projects could include the Morgan Library and Recreation Ground Toilets	Ongoing
Water Conservation Reduce water use	Deal with all water leaks as soon as possible Convert water tap in cemetery to push tap Investigate waterless urinals in public toilets Consider installation of water misers in public toilets.	Water troughs provided in allotments Water tap in Cemetery Water in public toilets	Groundsman / POH Already a push tap POH contacted Healthmatic meeting to be held 22.7.19 to discuss
Town Council Office			
Equipment	Copier turned off daily	Computers, printers and copiers turned off at end of day except when backups take place. All appliances with exception of phones unplugged at end of week.	Ongoing
Administration	Encourage staff to only print emails if necessary and to save them to computer instead	Double sided printing always used	Ongoing
Meetings	Encourage Councillors to receive meeting papers via email.	All papers apart from 1 Councillor are currently sent by post Use of extra laptop required to enable this could trial at July meeting using laptop from Clerk. Hard copy of meeting papers printed for 13 councillors approx. 400 sheets copied per Council meeting and 150 per committee meeting based on 2018 figures this equates to approx. 7500 sheets of paper per year. Investigate ways .of displaying meeting papers on screen during meetings	Town Council
Policies	The environmental impact of all new policies developed by the Town Council should be	Ongoing	Town Council or appropriate committee

<p>Contracts</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p>considered as part of the policy adoption process</p> <p>The environmental/ climate change impact of all contracts awarded will be built into the tendering process</p> <p>Encourage car sharing for travel to meetings outside of town.</p> <p>Most travel within the town on foot.</p> <p>Consider acquisition of a second hand bicycle and helmet to allow for quicker travel to site visits for staff.</p> <p>Consider installation of electric car charging point in car park. Consider adding as standard planning comment on all new developments, look at installation in Butler Sports Centre</p>	<p>Cycle acquired from Shropshire Council Pool Cycle scheme now located in Edinburgh House for use by all staff.</p> <p>Research being undertaken on installation of charge point in Bowensfield Car Park</p>	<p>Town Council or appropriate committee</p> <p>Town Council</p>
<p>Amenity Areas / Cemeteries Allotments</p>	<p>Consideration given into the Environmental impact of any potential new piece of machinery is carried out prior to a decision being made on its suitability for purchase.</p> <p>Biodiversity – possible identification of areas of the Town for alternative grasscutting regime to increase bio diversity of some of the open spaces</p> <p>Tree Planting – identify areas for extra tree planting</p> <p>Consider acquisition of more allotment land to meet demand</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Discussed with J Ralphs possible extra planting in Trentham Road</p> <p>1 year waiting list expected to increase with additional development in the town and smaller gardens</p>	<p>For consideration Winter 2019 by Amenities Committee</p> <p>For consideration Winter 2019 by Amenities Committee</p> <p>Included in place plan</p>

	Consider development of Green Burial site.		Town Council to consider inclusion in place plan
Floral Planters	<p>Consider use of peat free compost in floral planters</p> <p>Reduce number of bedding plants and include more perennial plants in floral planters</p> <p>Purchase planters with internal reservoirs could be incorporated into a replacement programme for pole planters</p>		<p>POH Amenities Committee to consider as part of 2020 budget</p> <p>Amenities Committee to undertake review of floral planting scheme in Autumn / Winter for inclusion in budget</p>
<p>Energy Reduction</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Electricity</p>	<p>Streetlight energy reduction</p> <p>Encourage light bulb audit of all community run buildings in town</p> <p>Provision in budget to replace toilet lights with LED.</p> <p>Town Wide Solar Project – Swimming Pool, Butler Sports Centre</p>	<p>All Town Council owned street lights converted to LED and on a dimming regime to save energy. Encourage Shropshire Council and Connexus Housing to convert all their lights as well</p> <p>Possible grant project</p> <p>Electrician advised that as currently bulbs are low energy the reduction in energy by transfer to LED would be minimal so not cost effective</p> <p>Contacted s Midlands Energy Hub tim.yair@nottinghamcity.gov.uk for advice suggest setting up meeting to discuss submission of application to undertake a feasibility study</p>	<p>Town Council</p> <p>Wem Economic Forum or Town Council</p> <p>Working Group</p>

Area Wide Projects involving businesses WEF and neighbouring parishes

Activity	Action	Current status	Lead Contact
Project promotion	Organise a Public Meeting to establish a Climate Change Forum for the town	Suggested meeting in early October Links already made with Thomas Adams School	Edward Towers to co-ordinate meeting
Provision of drinking fountains	None currently in Town Encourage cafes to advertise provision of water bottle refills	Refill Wem project launched June 2019 by Thomas Adams School - Adams Action Group (Longer term look into feasibility of installation of water fountain in town or on recreation ground)	Town Council Possible future budget
Reduce single use plastics	Encourage businesses to reduce amount of single use plastic they use. Possibility of development of plastic Free Town		Climate Change Forum Project?
Energy Saving	Run an energy saving awareness campaign Possibly develop small grant pot to fund energy saving grants		Climate Change Forum
Project promotion / community education	Identify location for a permanent display in town updating on environmental activities Develop a climate change charter for organisations to sign up to	Noticeboard acquired for purpose	Edward Towers to draft
Youth Engagement	Involve young people at each stage and take their advice on the activities proposed to help with restricting global warming Discussions with the Youth Club and Schools to be held seeking their ideas	Meeting held with Adams Action group to discuss future projects Youth Club involved with litterpick campaigns	Town Clerk

<p>Waste reduction</p>	<p>Litterpick / recycling</p> <p>Identify area in Town to create a community compost site. <i>(Community composting is where a central composting point is made available for local residents to use and compost their fruit and vegetable peelings)</i></p>	<p>Grant funding received for purchase of litterpickers to be loaned out to groups. Quarterly town litterpicks established. All litter collected is sorted for recycling – a theme is chosen for each litter pick to highlight a particular issue. Summer theme cigarette ends, all cigarette ends collected sent off for recycling.</p>	<p>Town Clerk / Wembles</p>
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