

Wem Town Council Climate Change Action Plan

This climate change action plan was considered by Councillors and representatives from Wem Area Climate Action (WACA) on 12.12.24

Priority 1 - Planning Applications – The Town Council should submit comments on every planning application for domestic and commercial new builds, extensions, conversions that request conditions relating to use of appropriate insulation / the installation of low carbon heating systems / use of low carbon products in the build installation of EV charging points / tree planting etc.






Action Edward Towers discuss with Shropshire Council’s climate change team to produce a list of suitable comments that could be used when planning applications are considered by The Town Council decides to submit comments. The standard comment could say something like “If planning permission is to be granted for this application. the Town Council request that the following conditionsare placed as part of any permission

Priority 2 Emergency Plan Review Emergency Plan to ensure it contains up to date information relating to extreme weather events especially flooding and storms



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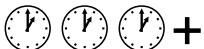

		S/M/L Term S – 2019/21 M - 2021/25 L – 2025/30	Time Commitment 🕒 low 🕒🕒 medium 🕒🕒🕒 high	Cost £ low ££ medium £££ high	Update 19.12.24
Lobbying and Leadership					
	Organisational Review of Policies to align with Climate Change Commitment	Short	🕒 🕒	£	Ongoing
	Publicise commitment	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing
	Climate Change Page on Website	Short	🕒	£	Page updated to include link to WACA website
	Commenting on planning applications – The Town Council should submit comments on every planning application for domestic and commercial new builds, extensions, conversions that request conditions relating to use of appropriate insulation / the installation of low carbon heating systems / use of low carbon products in the build/ installation of EV charging points / tree planting etc.	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing – awaiting discussion on appropriate comments to include
	Add Climate Change References in all new contract specifications and Tenders and add to the evaluation process	Short	🕒	£	Ongoing reference included in Floral planters, Streetlighting and Public Toilets contracts
Carbon Reduction of Assets					
	Undertake Carbon Footprint Audit	Short	🕒 🕒 🕒	££	Completed by Marches Energy Agency 2019 no update needed as no new buildings taken on.
	Replace Street Light heads with LED	Short	🕒 🕒	£££+	Completed 2018

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5 year plan to replace all concrete street lighting columns	Medium		£££+	Started 2022 – ongoing 2024
Consider climate impact on new purchases of plant & machinery	Medium		££	Groundsman has trailed 2 different types of battery operated hand tools currently nothing suitable on the market
Reduce carbon footprint of toilets	Medium		£££	As rainwater harvesting unit installation is not cost effective as water savings would be limited. Rainwater and waste water harvesting to be built into any newbuild schemes. PIR sensors fitted for lighting. Sensors fitted to reduce flushing of urinals.
Consider carbon footprint of any buildings to be taken on by the Town Council in the future	Long		££	Ongoing.
Reduce carbon footprint of Town Council office activities	Short		£	Reduce printing, request minimal packaging on items ordered e.g paper. All appliances with exception of phones and CCTV turned off each day Use bicycle for travel to meetings / inspections within the town.

Renewable Energy





Request energy from Town Council's electricity providers is renewable	Medium		£	Switched to renewables complete.
Explore potential for installing Solar/Wind mitigating measures on Council Land/Buildings	Long		£££+	Solar panels installed on Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre in 2024 as part of grant application. Work with WACA to explore community energy Schemes eg wind turbines/solar panel farming on roofs.

Transport					
	Improve pathways and encourage walking & cycling	Medium		£££+	Deep clean of Drawwell Walk in 2024 has improved area, Other pathways being monitored for overgrowth and reported. Parish Paths Partnership Established in Town.
Waste Minimisation					
	Paperless Council Meetings	Short		£	10 councillors now receiving meeting papers via email. Council to consider the purchase or lease of tablets for new council in 2025 to completely remove need for paper
	Encourage Contractors to have a “Zero to Landfill” policy	Long		£	To be written into new contracts
	Ensure all waste is recycled and reused wherever possible	Short		£	ongoing
Open Spaces					
	Develop Open Space Management Plans	Medium		££	Since 2022 two areas of long grass left on Trentham Road and The Wheatfields Public Open spaces – Wildflower Meadow created in 2023 in The Wheatfields and new meadow created on Trentham Road POS Biodiversity Action Plan adopted in 2024 and to be referenced during management of the public open spaces.
	Identify potential new open space areas			£££	Worked with Wem Area Climate Action to identify locations. Millfields and





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					Fothergill Way Open Spaces are possible areas. 2025 - Consider establishing a Wildflower meadow/unmown area on the rec.
	Develop a long-term approach to tree planting, including encouraging community tree planting and identifying locations for bulk planting	Medium		£££	2021 Tree planting has taken place on Wheatfields Play Area, Trentham Road Play Area and Wem Recreation Ground. 70 trees planted for the Jubilee in Town gardens in 2022 2025 Continue to explore areas for new tree planting.
	Purchase Peat-Free Compost	Medium		££	Floral planter's 100% peat free.
	Continue replacement of floral planters with built-in water reservoirs to reduce the need for watering	Medium		££	All new planters have built in reservoir 2025 Request permission for Use of the Incredible Edible bowser to water tubs on Jubilee Square

Community Engagement

	Consider amending Town Council's grant application form to request evidence of applicants' commitment to tackling the climate Change	Medium		££	Completed
	Establish Area forum to encourage the community to embrace the Climate Change agenda	Short			WACA Established with links to Town Council. 2025 This page of Council website needs up dating.
	Encourage Councillors to promote climate change	Short		£	Ongoing
	Publicise and promote achievements in reducing the Council's carbon footprint on website and in the Wemian	Medium		£	2025 Council needs to work with WACA to build better links with National and Shropshire based

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					environmental interest groups for advice, publicity and campaigns. Encouraging community and young peoples involvement.
Young People					
	To consult with schools and youth groups in Wem to seek views of young people to understand what Wem related projects / initiatives the Town Council should progress to tackle the climate Change.	short	 	£	2025 Town Council to support work of WACA to support them to achieve this objective
Monitoring					
	Report 6 monthly reviews against plan	Short		£	Not achieved, no review in 2023 2025 Agreed annual monitoring of plan
Emergency Plan					
	Ensure emergency plan remains up to date to include information on extreme weather events with particular focus on flooding, storm damage and heat	Short		£	2025 New objective