



# **TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

## **POINTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DISCUSSION**

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- **WHERE IS THE CARBON COMING FROM?**
- **HOW DO WE REDUCE OUR CARBON?**
- **WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR?**
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Around the UK, many County Councils are putting together climate emergency policies which will help to make a difference globally.

Torpoint Town Council recognise this and acknowledge there is need to act now to reduce our own carbon footprint locally.

With the noticeable change in recent weather patterns, which have caused global destruction in the forms of floods, fires, crop failure and the huge changes in temperature to the averages recorded, the lives and welfare of our children and grandchildren will be severely compromised without action being taken now.

## **WHERE IS THE CARBON COMING FROM?**

Carbon emissions come from many sources:

- Energy usage
- Transport and travel
- Housing, infrastructure, home insulation
- Waste
- Environment

## **Top culprits of greenhouse gases:**

- Burning fossil fuels to heat our houses and businesses
- Burning other fuels such as wood
- Transportation
- Manufacturing and construction
- Unsustainable food systems
- Industry
- Destruction of forests and woodland
- Landfills

## **HOW DO WE BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL**

Torpoint Town Council will look to its own carbon footprint then encourage residents to do the same in their own households.

There is a need to change as a community to a more sustainable lifestyle and to look to utilising power with maximum efficiency; to change to more renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar,



reducing the number of petrol and diesel vehicles on our roads, encouraging the change-over to electric/hybrid vehicles, reducing waste and plastic consumption, buying food and supplies locally.

There are Government grants available for improving home insulation and changing gas boilers to heat pumps. There is also an initiative to install home charging points for electric vehicles.

The aim of this plan is to inform and educate the residents of Torpoint, supporting them in changing their lifestyles to reduce carbon emissions.

### **WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR**

Torpoint Town Council has:

- Acknowledged a declared a state of climate emergency
- Leases a hybrid vehicle, with electric charging point installed at Bénodet Park
- Hirers are encouraged to recycle waste when using the Council facilities.

### **THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN**

- Encourage residents and local businesses to change their behaviour to use energy more efficiently
- Make local residents aware of government grants/initiatives to phase out gas usage and replace with clean fuel sources (heat pumps)
- Encourage use of local transport, car sharing
- Encourage residents to cycle or walk more
- Support and promote local business and encourage new local businesses
- Ensure new housing areas provide energy efficient affordable housing
- Promote recycling and upcycling
- Promote the swapping and sharing of items rather than sending them to landfill
- Encourage repair cafes
- Encourage the planting of trees in appropriate places
- Continue to manage and promote our community green spaces.

### **CONCLUSION**

Torpoint Town Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions on the following, through education/dissemination of information.

#### **Aims – medium and long term:**

- Set up a survey to gain local opinion and raise awareness
- Encourage buying local
- Lead by example
- Support car sharing
- Reduce paper consumption
- Support better/more bus and transport routes
- Promote healthier life styles based on locally grown food, more walking and cycling
- Encourage adoption of electric vehicles by providing charging points
- Encourage more energy efficient homes and work places
- Set up a repair café
- To ensure continued input (after implementation of the emergency plan)