



TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

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
- Encourages its employees and hirers to switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights, when not in use; has undertaken a phased replacement with LED bulbs in Council premises
- Promotes and encourages the use of local suppliers in procurement policies.

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN

- Encourage residents and local businesses to change their behaviour to use energy more efficiently
- Share information with local residents' about government grants/initiatives to phase out gas usage and replace with clean fuel sources (heat pumps)
- Encourage use of local transport, car sharing, cycling and walking
- 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 cafés
- Introduce natural climate change by encouraging the planting of trees in appropriate places and rewilding
- Continue to manage and promote our community green spaces.

CONCLUSION

Torpoint Town Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions by 2024, through education and dissemination of information and although it has no powers to mandate changes in relation to transport provision or waste management, it will improve its own performance in these areas, encourage best practice and lead by example.

Aims – medium and long term:

- Set up a survey to gain local opinion and raise awareness to set up a repair café
- Encourage buying local
- Lead by example
- Encourage 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
- Undertake an audit of current Council emissions
- Agree initial measurements to track the Council's carbon footprint over an agreed period of time
- To ensure continued input, after implementation of the climate emergency action plan.