

Newent Town Council
Action on Climate Change – Plan

(Created 6th December 2021; Approved by Planning & Environment Committee 13th June 2022; **Updated 27.03.23, 26.02.24 & 24.06.24**)

Objective 1 – Reduce the Town Council’s carbon footprint to net zero by 2030.

RAG Rating **Red - Not Completed:** **Amber- In Progress:** **Green – Completed:**

Note: Planning & Environment Priorities are 1.1: 4.1: 4.3: 5.3: 6.1

This document has been created by Newent Town Council’s Climate Change Working Group in conjunction with Newent Climate Group at a meeting on 6th December 2021.

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
1.1	Investigate current fuel usage in daily operations and calculate carbon footprint	Calculate yearly footprint for Scope 1 emissions by mid-2022.	25.07.22: Dr Bean to undertake work on this. He requires raw data and will liaise with the clerk.
1.2	Switch to renewable energy supplier	By end of 2022. (Scope 2 emissions)	23.01.23: To review the energy supplier by Autumn 2023
1.3	Manage waste, use appropriate goods and service providers, and encourage sustainable travel to work.	Reduce Scope 3 emissions. Switch to leasing ULEV vehicles when current contracts expire.	27.02.23: Speak with Estate Supervisor regarding use of electric bikes for personal and work usage. Enquire with Sheppard House regarding installing of electric vehicle charging points in the car park used by the council.

Objective 2 – 50% of the parish’s electricity to be generated from renewable sources within the parish by 2030.

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
2.1	Calculate current renewable energy generation in Newent parish to obtain baseline data by observation survey.	By end of 2022	April 2022-November 2022 Data provided for analysis
2.2	Promote installation of renewable energy in residential, community and business premises	Ongoing. Facilitate delivery of information with surveys, presentations and public events.	23.01.23: To promote the use of the Aurora Project within the FoDDC and possibly within the Recreation Ground pavilion build
2.3	Support Newent NDP to produce a low carbon neighbourhood plan.	During the policy making phase, consultancy/resources may need funding.	27.02.23: Councillors are on the Steering Group to take this forward.

Objective 3 – Encourage active travel and sustainable transport

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
3.1	Develop safe walking and cycle routes in conjunction with district and county councils.	As a statutory consultee, ensure all options are explored in planning applications for walkers and cyclists. Continue to pursue footpaths or other options for safer pedestrian journeys in Culver Street. Work with local cycle groups to support pathways for safer cycling.	27.02.23:County Council funding has been supplied to resurface the Public Right of Way by Culver Street and the school GNE84/96: and between Onslow Road, Second Gate, into the field GNE92, from Highways Local Fund.
3.2	Install sufficient safe cycle storage in town.	Work with local store. Review other locations for potential secure storage.	27.02.23:Requested cycle storage when the committee reviewed the planning application

3.3	Explore grants for installing EV charging points in residential, community and business locations.	Promote installation through campaigns and in local media.	27.02.23: Working with various partner agencies to further promote EV charging points and installation using social media.
3.4	Promote installation of public and private EV charging points,	FoDDC due to install EV charging points in 2022 in Lewall St car park. Continue to press planning applicants to provide more than the basic requirement including in visitor parking areas. Encourage owners of community and business buildings to provide charging points in their parking areas.	24.06.24: (a) FoDDC has revised the project and will be installing E.V Charging points in its major car parks within the financial year ending 2024/25 (b) GCC have installed three Street posts with a total of six charging points on Church Street, Newent
3.5	Through Newent NDP and the consultation for the FoDDC emerging local plan, make the case for another supermarket and transport hub.	Lack of competition drives many people to shop away from Newent due to high prices. Transport hub needed as part of new infrastructure for future major development on SE of town, to enable car-sharing, park and ride etc.	NDP Steering Group: Working towards the creation of Vision, Aims and Objectives before entering the policy phase of policy writing prior to examination and approval. A Planning consultant has now been appointed.
3.6	Slowing down traffic to improve air quality and safer streets.	Support 20mph zones more widely in the town in all residential areas.	Project to explore following May 2023 elections

Objective 4 – Reduce energy demand and waste in the parish

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
4.1	Hold energy events to share information about carbon reduction, insulation and the cost benefits for individuals and organisations.	Work with community groups to promote events such as a Climate Market/Action Fayre. During 2023	25.07.22: Events are being planned and space for a stall could be provided, supported by the Communities Committee, to support an exhibition on carbon reduction for the action plan. The Planning & Environment Committee and Communities Committee Chair's are to liaise. 24.10.22: Meant to hold community events, not occurred, as yet: Objective to be altered
4.2	Work with organisations which promote recycling, re-using and repairing.	Promote Recycling Shop and Mend & Repair Café.	Already being promoted through recycling posters
4.3	Encourage non-collected recycling with notice of collection points for harder to recycle materials.	Soft plastics are now recycled locally at the large Co-op. Signpost to household waste recycling centres.	25.07.22 A FoDDC is available and has been promoted via social media regarding collections. Cllr Mrs G Moseley is producing leaflets regarding recycling. 24.10.22 Leaflet produced: to be taken to P&S to discuss, approval. Climate Change Guide to be presented to P&E for approval 2023/2024 To investigate an Environment page on the council's website

Objective 5 – Increase carbon capture through tree planting and land management

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
5.1	Encourage tree planting by individuals, community and on farms.	Use external bodies for resources.	28.11.22: November 2022: Ash dieback Project – Application successful, trees requested on behalf of partners: waiting for partners to acknowledge they will plant according to the county requirements. Project on hold – March 2023
5.2	Work with Newent in Bloom to maximise planting through the town all year round.	Promote and support activity days run by NiB.	On-going
5.3	Hedgerow and verge management – plan for biodiversity	Connect to local biodiversity projects.	28.11.22: Council’s Estate Supervisor and team manage the open spaces and lake areas on behalf of the council. Monthly plan provided to council on actions, with arrangements in place to support biodiversity, to ensure that wildlife is not adversely impacted. Cllr G Moseley to approach the Local Highways Manager for Gloucestershire County Council regarding biodiversity during 2023. Newent Town Council has adopted a Biodiversity Policy that will be taken into account when making any decisions.

Objective 6 – Community Engagement

	Activity	Notes/Timescale	Comments
6.1	Work with Newent Climate Forum in new committee structure	Plan for representation on appropriate committee.	
6.2	Website page for news and information	Create a page for the environment within the NTC website.	28.11.22 Webpage being developed: to be housed via www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk website: Information on recycling and the environment to be developed and shared via this site, and others
6.3	Establish better lines of communication through the NTC newsletter	Create an opt-in email list such as Clifford's Mesne and Oxtalls parish support for all information not simply climate change matters.	
6.4	Liaise with other groups across the district and county	Seek out and share successful practice and projects for replicating in/from Newent parish.	
6.5	Promote toolkits and audits for better awareness.	FoDDC has produced a comprehensive toolkit in association with Cotswold district. Personal carbon audit tool is available from the GCC website. More coming.	
6.6	Liaise with schools and other youth organisations for comprehensive coverage in the parish and beyond.	Children and young people can often get the climate change message across more effectively to their families. Promote their involvement.	Councillor Mrs K Selwyn to follow up over the summer term.