



PORTREATH
PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change. In the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The IPCC stress the importance of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Cornwall Council

In January 2019, Cornwall Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' in recognition of the need to take urgent action and set an ambitious target for the County to work toward becoming carbon neutral by 2030. In July 2019 Cornwall Council unanimously approved its Climate Action Plan and it is now working on a new Climate Change Development Plan to 'strengthen existing policies, create new ones and make allocations that address the climate change issues affecting Cornwall'.

'The Climate Change Emergency affects everyone, and we need to work together to address it...'

Bob Egerton, Cornwall Council

Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Planning

Portreath Parish Council

In March 2020, Portreath Parish Council unanimously declared a Climate Change Emergency. It agreed to set up a Climate Action Network (Portreath CAN) and to adopt its own Climate Action Plan setting out the actions it can take as a Parish Council.

This document sets out the goals, actions and policies that Portreath Parish Council is committed to in order to reduce its own carbon footprint and to support initiatives in the wider community to help mitigate and adapt to the impact of Climate Change in the Parish.

KEY GOALS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Declare a Climate Emergency

Show commitment to the community, support other local Councils and join the body of Councils demanding meaningful action from Westminster.

Form a Climate Action Network

Include local councillors, experts, organisations and representatives of the community to focus on addressing the emergency, explore ideas and prioritise actions, feeding back regularly to council meetings.

Take responsibility for the impact of Council decisions

Engage with the community and ensure that all policies and decisions of the council are informed and led by the impact they will have on securing a safer and better future for the Parish within the context of a Climate Emergency.

Short-term actions

Instigate the actions that can be taken by the Parish Council almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact. *(See below)*

Medium and longer-term goals

Agree to undertake policies and projects that may take more resources to achieve or need to be planned further in advance. *(See below)*

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

To be initiated immediately by the Parish Council.

- ☐ Pledge to support the **target set out by Cornwall Council** in its Climate Change Plan (July 2019) and set a target for the Parish to be net carbon neutral by 2030.
- ☐ Use information in the public domain to **benchmark current carbon output**, identify targets for the Parish and track progress against these targets
- ☐ Establish a **Climate Action Network** which will work in the interest of the Parish and allocate a lead Councillor to link with the network and the Parish Council.
- ☐ Switch to a **renewable energy supplier** for all Parish Council-run buildings/street lighting etc.
- ☐ Install **LED/low energy bulbs** in all Parish Council-run buildings/streetlights.
- ☐ Actively work to **reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle**. Minimise the amount of printed matter and where this is essential use recycled paper and recycle all waste.
- ☐ Use recycled paper and **environmentally friendly cleaning products** in all Parish Council facilities.
- ☐ **Stop the use of weedkillers** and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, verges and paths.
- ☐ Use **public notice boards** to promote awareness and environmental initiatives. For example 'how to be an eco-friendly visitor', highlighting which establishments offer water refills, safe cycle routes etc.
- ☐ Commit to using **local suppliers** wherever possible for the supply of goods and services and consider potential carbon emissions not just price when awarding contracts.
- ☐ Commit to **minimising the impact of Parish Councillors' activities** on the environment. Eg avoid unnecessary travel.
- ☐ **Maximise use of social media platforms** to engage with the community. Accepting that not all parishioners will have access to social media, use printed matter sparingly and target those that will benefit most.
- ☐ Make use of **opportunities to engage** with other Parish Councils, Cornwall Council and national government to promote policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change. Link with other organisations to share expertise, experience and knowledge.
- ☐ Ensure that **the NDP** supports high standards of energy efficiency and includes renewable energy in residential and commercial buildings. Include provision for clean energy schemes such as Community-led renewable energy projects and electric car charging.

MEDIUM AND LONGER-TERM GOALS

The Council has an important role to play in achieving these goals by embedding them in its own policies and actively supporting initiatives designed to meet them. Some of the actions listed below will be outside the direct remit of the Council and will be explored in more detail in the Community Action Plan to be produced over the next 6 months by the Portreath Climate Action Network (Portreath CAN).

Key:

- ☐ Indicates direct actions for the Parish Council itself
- Indicates examples of actions that could be taken by the community as proposed by Portreath Climate Action Network

POLICY 1. ENGAGING AND ENABLING THE COMMUNITY

The Parish Council will commit to engaging with and supporting the community, empowering it to take the actions required to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council will

- ☐ Develop a Communication and Outreach Strategy to share information with households, businesses and organisations within the Parish
- ☐ Engage with other parish councils, Cornwall Council and national organisations to promote actions, policies and legislation to combat the impact of climate change, sharing information and experience
- ☐ Combine resources with other parishes and stakeholders for larger cross community events
- ☐ Promote initiatives in the newsletter and social media and notice boards
- ☐ Help promote and support events to raise awareness, educate and upskill
- ☐ Encourage as many people as possible to calculate their carbon footprint
- ☐ Engage with the school and other community groups and local stakeholders such as the Portreath Improvements Committee and Love Portreath
- ☐ Support the actions of the Climate Action Network

POLICY 2. REDUCING CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

The Parish Council will actively support and promote initiatives that seek to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill from the parish.

The Council will

- ☐ Continue efforts to reduce its own consumption and waste.
- ☐ Engage with Cornwall Council to secure strategically placed local recycling facilities
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives

This may include for example:

- Support the Parish Council in lobbying for recycling points in the parish
- Increasing household recycling rates
- Community composting schemes
- Possible sites for allotments
- Advice sessions -recycling, composting, food growing
- Group visit to recycling/ recovery/ green waste facilities
- Repair/upcycling/reusing projects
- Plastic free initiatives
- Community beach cleans and litter picking
- Link with SW water and promote water saving.
- Community fridge/larder – sharing surplus food

POLICY 3. REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND AND PRODUCING CLEAN ENERGY

The Parish Council will promote initiatives to reduce the use of energy originating from fossil fuels and encourage the generation of ‘clean energy’ within the parish.

It will

- ☐ Support planning applications that optimise the use of good environmental design, technology and materials which minimise the carbon cost of the building itself and the lifetime running costs
- ☐ Support local and national initiatives to increase environmental standards in planning reforms and local plans
- ☐ Help identify suitable sites for community led renewable energy projects
- ☐ Consider switching off streetlights at night at a safe and appropriate time or install PIR sensors
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives

For example:

- Encouraging households to check the energy efficiency of their homes
- Promote grants available to improve energy performance of buildings and provide assistance with applications for those that need it. Eg pop up surgeries
- Develop a programme to facilitate transition to low carbon heating for homes and businesses (eliminate coal and oil dependency in the parish)
- Run DIY demonstration sessions in typically constructed homes to show how they can be made more energy inefficient and reduce the cost of fuel bills. For example, draughtproofing windows and doors
- Hire a thermal imaging camera to show heat loss on buildings
- Encourage people to switch to a 100% renewable supplier for electricity and gas if appropriate
- Explore options with potential suppliers for a community rate for renewable power

- Establish a project team to explore the potential for a community-led renewable energy project which would produce energy locally for the benefit of the community

POLICY 4. TRANSFORMING GREEN SPACES

The Parish Council will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment, making space for nature and wildlife through the restoration of valued habitats, biodiversity and green spaces whilst protecting key landscape features.

It will

- ☐ Consult with contractors and other stakeholders to formulate a plan to manage green spaces, verges and pathways to maximise carbon sequestration and promote biodiversity.
- ☐ Identify potential sites for tree planting, and bird and insect boxes.
- ☐ Stop using weed killers and pesticides on Council owned land and work with stakeholders such as the PIC and Cornwall Council to reduce mowing and encourage rewilding within the Parish. Where possible, making play areas more natural and providing more habitats for wildlife
- ☐ Monitor, preserve and protect existing natural wildlife habitats, including marine life
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community led initiatives

For example:

- Community tree planting scheme in conjunction with Forest for Cornwall initiative.
- Encouraging households to eliminate the use of weed killers and pesticides
- Educational workshops to encourage rewilding of gardens, food growing and planting for biodiversity
- Community growing projects
- Keep streams and waterways free flowing and clear of rubbish
- Consider a scheme to deter hard landscaping and replace non-porous surfaces with porous materials
- Establish corridors for wildlife and space for nature for example pocket parks
- Engaging with businesses to encourage them to transform their outdoor spaces.

POLICY 5. CHANGING HOW WE MOVE AROUND

The Parish Council will work to help reduce dependency on fossil fuels for travel and improve safety and accessibility of pedestrian and cycle routes.

It will strive to

- ☐ Encourage the use of public transport and lobby Cornwall Council for improved bus services to and from the parish.
- ☐ Promote the reduction of car use. Encourage car sharing. Explore possibility of facilitating a commercial car club.
- ☐ Promote cycling and walking (including walk to school initiatives)
- ☐ Provide more cycle parking
- ☐ Improve safety. Slow vehicles down, maintain safe walking and cycling paths and keep road signage clear
- ☐ Consider weight/size restrictions for heavy goods vehicles travelling through the parish
- ☐ Lobby for safe road crossings particularly at the school entrance and between the beach and the public conveniences.
- ☐ Provide safe and accessible routes connecting key attractions. For example, from Tregea Park to the beach. Lighthouse Hill to the harbour. Portreath to Redruth
- ☐ Support the Mining Trail forum in promoting and maintaining routes
- ☐ Improve signage to, and on, all safe routes
- ☐ Encourage the use of electric cars. Aspire to all new buildings having sufficient charging points to meet future needs. Consider sites for communal charging points for homes without off road parking, and for visitors.
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives

POLICY 6. SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Parish Council will encourage the use of local services and products and work closely with local businesses to help them to reduce the environmental impact of their activities.

It will

- ☐ Undertake to give priority to local suppliers in its own procurement process.
- ☐ Engage with the parish businesses, including the farming community and encourage them to reduce their carbon footprints
- ☐ Encourage plastic free, water refill and other carbon reduction initiatives and promote businesses that achieve these.
- ☐ Support initiatives to welcome visitors such as information points and signage and promote environmentally responsible behaviour.
- ☐ Support a local produce market
- ☐ Continue to lobby for the best technological infrastructure to support working from home
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives

This may include

- Creation of a 'Green' directory of local businesses and services
- Carbon audits for businesses
- Re-establish a local produce market, buy local initiatives and 'use it or lose it' campaign for local shops and amenities
- Seek 'Plastic Free Portreath' status and promote other recognised initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of businesses on the environment
- System for waste food
- Consider introducing a climate charter/pledges for businesses.
- Promote climate specific guide to 'being a good visitor'
- Welcome visitors -information centre/historical tours

POLICY 7. BUILDING A STRONGER, HEALTHIER AND MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITY

The Parish Council recognises that many of the initiatives to tackle the Climate Emergency also reap benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. It will promote and encourage initiatives which help build a stronger and healthier and more resilient community.

It will

- ☐ Use meetings, social-media, and co-ordinate with the PIC newsletters for space, to acknowledge and promote initiatives and the positive impacts that they have
- ☐ Allocate council meeting time to review the lessons that can be learnt from the COVID-19 Lockdown and consider how these may influence policies and priorities in the future
- ☐ Look for opportunities to engage with younger members of the community and understand their needs
- ☐ Consider making more spaces available for sports and exercise, an outdoor gym for example
- ☐ Support events that bring the community together
- ☐ Monitor progress on reducing odour from harbour and support environmentally positive solutions
- ☐ Support the work of the Carbon Action Network in community-led initiatives

For example:

- Consider post COVID-19 pledges for individuals
- Good Gym – providing exercise whilst helping those less able with tasks they need doing
- Community transport scheme – Helping the more vulnerable to get to essential appointments
- Community Hub – weekly 'drop in' social events

For further information about this document please contact PortreathCAN@gmail.com