



Climate action plan – Updated May 2023

Vision

For Fremington Parish Council (FPC) and the parish of Fremington to become carbon neutral by 2030

Scope

To include all carbon emitting activity in Fremington parish, both from the council activities and those from residents and businesses based here, including farming, home energy and transport, as far as the council's remit and capacity allow.

Priorities

1. Collaborate effectively with other stakeholders, e.g. councils, community groups, businesses, schools and the public.
2. Commit to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through its own actions and procurements.
3. Place carbon reduction opportunities at the heart of the Council's committees, policies, procedures, contracts and plans.
4. Lobby for environmental changes to infrastructure and activities within the parish that are not the direct responsibility of the Parish Council
5. Empower groups and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint through outreach and educational materials.
6. Commit to improve the Parish's ecological diversity and abundance
7. Raise funds for action.

List of abbreviations

FPC – Fremington Parish Council
CAT – Climate Action Team (NDC)
DCC – Devon County Council
PPF – Parks and Playing Fields Committee
FC – Finance and Personnel Committee
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NDC – North Devon Council
NDH – North Devon Homes
PET – Petroc Sustainability Team

PFND – Plastic Free North Devon
PLN – Planning Committee
SWW – South West Water
WPD – Western Power Distribution
361 – 361 Community Energy Task

9	Use eco-friendly cleaning products	*		Replace toxic cleaning products with eco-friendly alternatives such as vinegar			Jan 2021

3. Place carbon reduction opportunities at the heart of the council's committees, policies, procedures, contracts and plans

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility			Date achieved
		2021/22	2022-2025	2026-2030		Group	Cllr/member	Stakeholder	
1	The Climate and Ecological Emergency to be a consideration on all council business	*			Councillors to consider climate implications of any decisions made. Update policies	CEWP	VW/JW		29/4/21 Cllrs agreed to support CEE Bill
2	Embed Climate Emergency considerations into neighbourhood plan	*			Refer to Centre for Sustainable Energy's Toolkit for introducing Climate Change issues into Neighbourhood Plans https://www.cse.org.uk/localenergy/neighbourhood-plans/community-engagement See Exmouth Town Council for example of the workload: https://www.exmouth.gov.uk/exmouth-neighbourhoodplan/ Public consultation / Referendum Ask NDH what the energy-efficiency of current housing stock looks like				
3	Adopt CEWP Action Plan (this doc)	*			Pass through full council				06/04/21 Cllrs Agreed Changes
4	Contractors to use environmentally friendly approach to tasks	*			Encourage council contractors to adopt ecologically friendly work practises wherever possible, phasing out use of harmful chemicals and reducing carbon footprint.				

4. Lobby for environmental changes to infrastructure and activities within the parish that are not the direct responsibility of the Parish Council

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility			Date achieved
		2021/22	2022-2025	2026-2030		Group	Cllr/member	Stakeholder	
1	95% of street lighting to be LED	*			Lobby Devon County Council to increase rollout of LED street lighting	FPC	JW		08/04/21 DCC have changed 35 Street Lights in Aspen Grove, Barn Park Road, Blakeland Rd, Brake Wood Close, Pounfield – columns awaiting replacement 22/05/23 DCC has confirmed that 90% in the area have been changed to LED
2	75% of street lighting to be switched off between 1-5AM	*			Lobby DCC to implement policy of switching off street lights in the small hours				22/05/23 DCC has confirmed that around a third in the area are switched as part night lighting, the Environment and Community Committee agreed that, that is a balance between the environment and safety.
3	Assist residents to set up a Community Renewable energy company		*		Gather information and interest and assist in setting up a local energy company for residents to help reduce their carbon				

2. Commit to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through its own actions and procurements

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility			Date achieved
		2021/22	2022-2025	2026-2030		Group	Cllr /member	Stakeholder	
1	Create an energy survey of the council properties and activities	*			Enlist help from 361 Energy in how to go about creating an energy survey				
2	Install solar PV panels on the Beechfield Centre	*			Investigate pricing and funding possibilities for a frame mounted PV array on the roof – investigated, review when technology allows.				
3	Move to a renewable energy company for electricity and gas	*							Jan 2021
4	Provide more efficient vehicle for PPF personnel	*			Lease of hybrid Ford Transit initiated				Dec 2020
5	Council vehicle(s) to be totally electric		*		New vehicle lease to be for full battery powered EV when Transit lease expires				
6	Install EV charging points within the parish		*		Install a fast charger (7-22Kw) post in the carpark of the Beechfield centre Investigate a possible site for a rapid charger (50Kw)				
7	Investigate use of heat pumps to heat council properties	*			Investigate feasibility of heating council properties using heat pumps, obtain quotes and plan how to finance if suitable.				
8	Go plastic free	*			Alternative products and suppliers to be used to eliminate plastic use within council activities as much as possible place a statement in the Beechfield Hire Agreement to encourage hirers to use paper, plates, cups, straws etc wherever possible and not single use plastic and to place an article in the next Parish Council newsletter.				ongoing

5. Empower groups and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint through outreach and educational materials.

	Action	When ?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility			
		2021/22	2022-2025	2026-2030		Group	Clr /member	Stakeholder	Date achieved
1	Support NDC & 361 energy in organising climate fairs and events	*			Support organisations wherever possible to promote energy saving ideas and greener living.				
2	Provide bike racks for Council properties	*			Install bike racks at Beechfield Centre and council premises to encourage cycling for staff and visitors.				
3	Encourage local businesses and shops to provide bike racks to encourage cycling	*			Approach local businesses with the suggestion to fit bike racks where appropriate and support through bulk buying to reduce costs.				
4	Encourage schools to walk and cycle more	*			Encourage 'walking buses' and 'cycle buses' for parish schools.				
5	Create a Climate Emergency page on the FPC website	*			Create webpage for Climate Emergency Decide what needs to be included: carbon-neutral definition, FPC declaration, Action Plan + progress & performance reports, press releases, FAQ, educational materials, links to key organisations (global, national, local), recycling info, FPC achievements, local initiatives, local success stories, public survey, businesses survey, show annual carbon emissions by sector/per person/household from Government and IPCC docs, SWW hippos, Promote 'Shop Local', Encourage growing own food and reduce food waste.				

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6. Commit to improve the parish's Ecological diversity and abundance

	Action	When ?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility			Date achieved
		2021/22	2022-2025	2026-2030		Group	Cllr /member	Stakeholder	
1	Improve biodiversity of all public spaces within the parish	*			Identify suitable sites on parish land to plant trees and wildflowers. Contractors to provide upkeep Initiate setting up of trial wildflower sites. Consider "Adopt a verge" scheme for residents and community groups for planting wildflowers and bulbs to increase bee/ insect numbers and plant biodiversity subject to council approval. Record of plots to be kept and liaise with contractors (already on side) Cross reference with Neighbourhood Plan.				Mar 23
2	Conduct parish hydrological survey to identify action needed to improve water quality	*			Contact Petroc college and Exeter University Geography Dept to see if students could be used to conduct a survey of all Parish watercourses to identify possible problems and potential improvements.				
3	Encourage residents to improve local biodiversity	*			Provide information and advice on tree planting and wilding of gardens and chemical free gardening via website and public meetings. Provide wildflower seeds for residents				
4	Ban use of herbicides on road gutters and margins	*			Liaise with DCC and local contractors to eliminate the use of herbicides in clearing gutters. Local residents to be encouraged to clear vegetation mechanically in their street. PPF to review the contractors use of chemicals and find ways to eliminate them.				
5	Organise Parish litter picks	*			Parish litter pick dates and wards to be decided and advertised for councillors and residents to join in with to eliminate plastics and rubbish from our neighbourhoods.				
6	Improve wildlife habitats within the parish	*			Work with residents and resident associations to improve habitats for wildlife such as hedgehogs, birds, other mammals				

