

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2025-26

In September 2019, Folkestone Town Council declared that we are in a state of climate emergency and committed to reducing FTC activities to zero net carbon by providing appropriate funding and resources to create and deliver a Carbon Action Plan, thus ensuring that all strategic decisions and budgets are in line with a shift to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

## Aim 1 Reduce the Council's carbon footprint to net zero by 2030

Action		By	Progress
1.1	Find out what energy and fuel is currently used in our daily operations then calculate the baseline carbon footprint	Apr-25	Carbon footprint in August 2020 was 26.85 tonnes of CO2e. Current footprint to be calculated.
1.2	Continue to use supplier offering 100% renewable energy	Ongoing	SSE Energy Solutions - 100% renewable energy with their own UK hydro plants and wind farms.
1.3	Review energy use in Town Hall	Ongoing	Heating is adjusted with energy consumption in mind. Lights and electrical equipment are switched off when not in use. Energy consumption and efficiency of new products are considered when purchasing.
1.4	Replace traditional lighting with LED bulbs	Apr-26	LED Lighting throughout the Town Hall apart from staff kitchen
1.5	Reduce paper usage	Ongoing	Agendas sent electronically unless Cllrs opt to receive paper agenda packs. Letters sent by email wherever possible.
1.6	Reduce use on single use plastics	Ongoing	Taken into account when purchasing products.

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1.7	Maintain Fairtrade Town status	Ongoing	Reestablish Fairtrade Working Group Meetings. New product display in the Town Hall foyer. Engagement with local businesses, retailers, supermarkets, schools, faith & church groups and production and publication of quarterly newsletter.
1.8	Christmas Lighting	Ongoing	All new installations use LED technology, reducing energy consumption by 75% compared to regular lights. Where possible, lights are 100% recyclable, made from recycled polymer and reused in future displays. Christmas lights are switched on between 3pm and 11pm daily from mid-November until early January.

### Aim 2 Reduce car emissions by encouraging switch to walking and cycling and electric vehicles

Action		By	Progress
2.1	Continue to use suitable electric or hybrid models for council owned vehicles	Ongoing	Mayors vehicle is hybrid (2024-2027). Community Bus is electric.
2.2	Work in partnership with KCC to encourage safe walking and cycle routes via the HIP	Ongoing	Ongoing process
2.3	Promote the use of travel alternatives such as email, online training and online meetings wherever practical	Ongoing	Ongoing process

### Aim 3 Increase Carbon Capture through tree planting and land management

Action		By	Progress
3.1	Encourage the reduction of cutting grasses areas to minimise carbon emissions and maximise potential for wildflower and pollinators	Ongoing	Working with contractors to identify suitable areas
3.2	Encourage pollinators by becoming a 'Bee Friendly Town'	Ongoing	Offer bee bombs for sale in Town Hall

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3.3	Look to designate sites within the neighbourhood plan for trees, renewable energy and nature restoration	2026	Neighbourhood Plan at stage one
3.4	Investigate the Bug Life Project and any initiatives to align with allotments and play parks	2026	Bug Hotels installed at some play parks. Allotments to be investigated.
3.5	Annually plant new trees, refill flowerbeds, troughs and shrub beds	Ongoing	FTC have historically planted an average of 35 trees a year since 2007 which continues to make a significant impact on the local carbon footprint. Its annual flower & shrub bed planting programme also helps to absorb carbon emissions.
3.6	Encourage allotment holders to utilise water butts to capture rainwater	Ongoing	Park Farm Allotments are very sustainable in capturing rainwater, however, more work to be undertaken with Tile Kiln Lane allotment holders.
3.7	Reduce use of harmful pesticides in the Town	Ongoing	The Council does not use any harmful pesticides in managing its land and this commitment

Aim 4 Demonstrate leadership through our own practical actions			
Action		By	Progress
4.1	Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements	Ongoing	Currently complying with all regulatory requirements
4.2	Wherever financially viable, and in line with the Procurement Policy, purchase locally where possible	Ongoing	Procurement Policy adhered to

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<b>4.3</b>	Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions	Ongoing	Environmental issues are considered when making recommendations and subsequent decisions
<b>4.4</b>	Encourage employee and Cllr awareness and training	Ongoing	KALC Climate Change Conference attended

### Aim 5 Recycle and Reuse

Action		By	Progress
<b>5.1</b>	In line with new legislation, ensure all plastic, metal, glass, paper, card and food waste is recycled	Mar-25	Recycling boxes installed in Town Hall for internal use.
<b>5.2</b>	Wet Pour in Play Parks	Ongoing	Environmentally conscious contractors sourced who use recyclable products wherever possible.
<b>5.3</b>	Use of licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste	Ongoing	Compliant
<b>5.4</b>	Recycle paper used	Ongoing	Contractor used for confidential paper bin.