

Climate Local Commitment

Climate Local Daventry District Council: Our commitments and actions 2020 Refresh

We recognise that as a local authority we have a role to play in reducing the impacts of a changing climate. **Daventry District Council** signed the Climate Local Commitment on 1st October 2012 in recognition of the important role that local authorities have in tackling climate change. In signing the Commitment we pledged to set locally-owned and determined targets and actions on both mitigation and adaptation and publish these within six months.

The table below sets out our priorities and commitments and the actions we will undertake to deliver them. We will monitor our performance against these actions and report regularly on our progress. This refresh provides an update on progress over the last year.

Over recent years public pressure has increased as awareness of the threat of climate change rises. In June 2019, the Committee on Climate Change recommended that the UK Government amend the carbon reduction target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, compared with the previous target of at least 80% reduction from 1990 levels. This was enshrined into law and the UK Government officially declared a 'Climate Emergency'. This led to over 200 local authorities declaring a climate emergency and setting ambitious targets for net zero. Daventry District Council has had a longstanding commitment to environmental improvement and joined this cohort by declaring a Climate Emergency in February 2020. A Climate Emergency Action Plan has been developed and commits the Council to further addressing the impacts of climate change as well as influencing policy in this area for the future West Northants Council. Our key commitments and actions under the Climate Local initiative are outlined below, new actions and commitments will be reported in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Low carbon pathways

In order to create an 'energy smart' low carbon future we make the following commitment(s):

Commitment 1: Reduce carbon emissions from the business sector.			
Justification: To reduce the carbon emissions across the district and contribute to lowering national and global greenhouse gas emissions to minimise the potential for climate change.			
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale	Progress To Date
Monitor the carbon emissions from local authority operations in relation to buildings and transport.	Percentage carbon reduction against 2008/09 baseline.	Ongoing	<p>The overall aim of the Carbon Management Plan to reduce carbon emissions by 30% against 2008/09 levels was achieved in the 2016/17 year. Carbon emissions data continues to be monitored annually through the greenhouse gas report. This data always runs a year behind.</p> <p>Total carbon emissions for the year of 2018/19 increased compared to the previous year but is still significantly reduced from the baseline year. The increase is mainly attributable to the increased energy usage at the two key Council buildings, Lodge Road and the Abbey. The greenhouse gas report for that year provides a detailed analysis. With the declaration of a climate emergency this year, investigations into making these buildings more energy efficient has commenced.</p> <p>An emissions reduction target for the 2020/21 year will be established once the 2019/20 greenhouse gas report is</p>

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			<p>complete. A longer term target will be established as part of the climate emergency work for West Northants Council.</p> <p>A total of 247 MWh was generated during 2019/20 from the seven solar photovoltaic arrays at Lodge Road, The Abbey, Daventry Leisure Centre, Hambleside Danelaw 1 & 2, Morris Road and Newnham Drive since installation.</p>
Monitor the Environmental Services Contract (ESC): Ensuring DDC receives carbon emissions data.	ESC Carbon emissions spreadsheet and report	Annually	The joint venture with Daventry Norse has been in place since June 2018. The 2018/19 data was therefore only a partial year but provided a useful benchmark of emissions to measure progress against. As part of the change in service provider for the ESC, a new fleet of Euro 6 engine collection vehicles were purchased. During the first year of the contract whilst an upgrade was taking place at the waste transfer station in Daventry, waste was being transported further afield resulting in a higher fuel usage and associated emissions. Fuel usage from the 19/20 year has reduced resulting in a decrease in emissions for this aspect of the service.

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Continue monitoring the ESC including reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling.	Liaison with Performance Monitoring Officer	Ongoing	The Daventry Norse service operates a 1-2-3 system of a weekly food waste collection, two weekly recycling collection (in a new wheelie bin for extra recycling) and a three weekly rubbish collection. The initial success of the change to this service continued with Daventry District Council recording the largest per household reduction in the collection of general waste in England following the introduction of its new recycling service. The change to this collection service helped to achieve an 85% increase in food waste recycling and a 35% rise in mixed dry recycling in its first full year of operation.
Encourage alternative transport solutions for DDC employees and promote at business meetings	Reducing CO2 emissions	Ongoing	<p>The annual employee travel survey highlighted 59% of respondents travel to work by green methods 'some of the time' which is an increase on the 56% the previous year. The number of people travelling to work using an ultra-low emission vehicle equated to 6% of respondents.</p> <p>The Council leased an electric pool car, a Nissan Leaf, for three years and the vehicle completed 13,700 miles in this time helping to achieve a carbon saving of 2.3 tonnes compared to completing the same mileage in a conventional petrol car. The</p>

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			replacement vehicle, a Volkswagen e-Golf has a much improved range and has proven to be well used by staff for business meetings completing 5,200 miles in the 2019/20 year. The internal policy states that pool cars should be used where possible over personal vehicles to reduce emissions from business mileage.
Install an additional electric vehicle charging point and procure at least one electric pool car.	ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle) funding secured.	March 2016	ULEV 'readiness' funding was obtained from OLEV (Office of Low Emission Vehicles) as part of the ULEV Readiness programme. The Council is just one of 19 nationally to take part. The funding contributed towards a further electric vehicle chargepoint specifically for local authority use and the Nissan LEAF pool car.

Commitment 2: Reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency measures from the domestic sector.			
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Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale	Progress To Date
Smart meter roll out	To increase awareness of the national smart meter scheme	Ongoing	Over the last couple of years, customer facing officers have been provided with training and briefings on the smart meter rollout. Regular articles have featured in the Daventry Calling magazine and on social media. The second generation smart meters which remove the problem with interoperability when switching supplier have now superseded the first generation meters. The Government has pushed back the target deadline for the smart meter rollout to 2024 as installation rates were behind target.
Promote loft and cavity wall insulation and other energy efficiency measures.	Number of installations	Ongoing	The majority of enquiries from the public on home insulation are via the Northants Warm Homes Partnership enquiries page. The Council signposts householders to providers from these enquiries and via press releases and the Council newsletter 'Daventry Calling'. The countywide advice service, Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service (NESS) is run by Citizens Advice in Northampton with other local partners. The Council signposts residents to NESS in relation to loft, cavity and wall insulation enquiries as well as home energy assessments.

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			<p>In 2018, the Northants Warm Homes Partnership also secured £3.9m from the Warm Homes Fund to provide first time central heating to 1,400 properties currently off gas across Northamptonshire. This project complements the NESS advice service and will improve energy efficiency and heating costs for some of the most vulnerable residents in our district helping to alleviate fuel poverty. This project will run until 2021. The uptake of this project has been lower than expected, a total of four households in the District have now been approved for installation although more are in the pipeline.</p> <p>The two-yearly report to fulfil the requirements of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) was completed in May 2019 and the next report is due in May 2021. This report outlines steps we have taken and will continue to take to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation.</p>
Provide education and awareness of renewable energy technology uptake.	Number of home energy measures installed in households.	Ongoing	Since 2003 to the end of March 2019 there have been 1,388 domestic solar PV installations in Daventry District. The Feed-in-Tariff scheme closed in March 2019 to new installations. This has been replaced with the Smart Export Guarantee which

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			requires that energy suppliers must provide a minimum of one tariff for domestic installations that export electricity to the grid. Residents are directed to the Energy Saving Trust to find out more information about renewable energy solutions via the Council website.
Develop an electric vehicle infrastructure Strategy.	Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy in place.	Strategy by June 2016. Chargepoint installs from March 2017 onwards	The Electric 'Plug-in' Vehicle Infrastructure Plan was approved and implemented in 2016. An action plan to install additional chargepoints around the district has been developed to support the strategy. The Council currently has one chargepoint solely for council EVs and a further two publicly available chargepoints on Lodge Road both of which are double sockets. The Council's corporate plan which is in place from 2017-2020 has also introduced a target for increasing the usage of electric vehicle chargepoints across the district. The EV strategy was reviewed in 2018 to plan for future infrastructure and to report on progress since the initial plan was developed. Work is ongoing to plan for installing three additional chargepoints in the district. OLEV grant funding for the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme has been doubled for the 2020/21 year to

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			£20m and an application is being prepared for Daventry District Council.
Encourage householders to look at alternative transport methods.	Number of attendees	Annually	<p>Sportfest is an annual event run by DDC and partners to celebrate sport and activity and encourage an active lifestyle amongst members of the public. The event brings together Fitfest and Cyclefest to continue the legacy from the Women's Tour stages held in the previous three years. The 2019 Sportfest offered taster sessions from various local sports clubs as well as promotional stands from British Cycling and Daventry Cycling Club which encouraged members of the public to take up cycling. The 2019 event was attended by approximately 500 people.</p> <p>Information on electric vehicle home charging is available on the Council's website including instructions for using the EV charging points in Daventry town and information on OLEV grants for home charging to support people making the transition to an EV.</p>

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Work with partnership organisations to influence environmental initiatives across the district.	Meetings and promotional activity	Ongoing	Partnership working is achieved through a number of countywide groups including Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership, Northants Warm Homes, Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group and Daventry and District Local Strategic Partnership. As Daventry District Council transitions to a new unitary authority in May 2021, work has commenced with officers at South Northants Council and Northampton Borough Council to respond to the climate emergency.

Commitment 3: Reduce carbon emissions and promote biodiversity in relation to local community groups.			
Justification: To reduce the carbon emissions across the district and contribute to lowering national and global greenhouse gas emissions to minimise the potential for climate change. To promote biodiversity and enhance resilience to climate change.			
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale	Progress To Date
Community wildflower and tree projects	Number of communities involved.	March 2020	<p>The Mini Wildflowers Project took place in 2016/17 which provided five community groups with an annual or perennial seed mix. The Budding Communities project built on the success of this and provided 39 community groups with spring bulbs or wildflower seeds in 2017/18.</p> <p>The 2018/19 project was the Big Poppy Plant which provided 31 community groups with a mix of poppy seeds to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. This project complements the Big Poppy Plant in 2014.</p> <p>The 2019/20 project was a tree planting scheme offered to community groups to plant in public spaces during National Tree Week in November. The offer was in support of the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback initiative. A total of 14 groups took part in the project planting 168 trees in Daventry district.</p> <p>All of the above projects help to promote biodiversity and enhance open spaces in the community.</p>

Climate resilience

In order to adapt to the risks and opportunities that our changing climate will present, we make the following commitment(s):

Commitment 4: Work in partnership on informing the countywide flood plans			
Justification: Understanding the potential flood risk across the district especially local risks			
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale	
Work in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and the Environment Agency identifying at risk areas	Providing the data to NCC	On-going	<p>The Council continues to liaise with Northamptonshire County Council on the local Flood Risk Management Operational Group and where practicable by providing input into the local Flood Risk Management Plan and into Flood Risk Investigations carried out by NCC under Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act.</p> <p>The County Council has prepared a local flood risk areas map in accordance with their responsibilities under the Flood & Water Management Act.</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council developed a Flood Toolkit for homes and organisations to assess the risk of flooding and effectively prepare and respond. The toolkit can be accessed at www.floodtoolkit.com. All front line customer service team have been trained on how to use the toolkit.</p>

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Drought management of at risk areas as climate changes		September 2013	<p>Completed in 2014/15. The Environment Agency advises that there are no drought 'at risk' areas in the District of Daventry at the current time.</p> <p>Climate East Midlands have in place a 'Climate Just' tool to help assess heat disadvantage risk areas and how to respond.</p>