

Email responses.

Firstly, thank you for being open to ideas and starting this discussion.

Here are a few suggestions:

Better green space/tree protection. Need survey to identify current areas that may be vulnerable, being sold for building etc.

Tree planting initiatives (native trees not Torbay specimen planting). This is particularly important as people can get involved in doing something positive and effective. Get schools to sign up as children need hope at this time.

Less severe cutting of verges and hedgerows.

Rewilding/ wilding of pockets of public green spaces.

Torbay council to divest from fossil fuels and banks that invest in high emission industries.

Set up repair workshops so items are not just thrown away.

Promote flexitarianism: encourage schemes such as meat free days, at work, schools and colleges as well as at home.

We really need a linked up and safe cycle route around Torbay. Currently there is no safe way out of Brixham, if there were, many Churston pupils might cycle to school.

Limit firework displays. Maybe laser/ light shows could replace some of the many shows around Torbay?

Talk to the local Green party and climate emergency groups.

Could I please propose to add a call for a ban on bonfires and burning of general waste and garden waste.

I was delighted to find that you wanted responses to Torbay Council declaring a Climate Emergency.

As a long-term environmentalist, I have been worrying about these issues since the late 1980's. I have split my responses into: What the Council could do, and What the Council could encourage in others.

What the Council Could Do:

1. Conduct a comprehensive energy review of all its buildings. How much could you save by installing e.g. energy-efficient lighting? Where are there unnecessary uses of power, e.g. computers or lights left on? Are you putting

- in place a plan to install solar panels on all your buildings? And how much will that save over the next 4 years?
2. Incorporate a requirement on all new development proposals for the developers to make them carbon-neutral.
 3. Engage with sponsors to install many more electric vehicle charging points around the Bay.
 4. Review the Council's vehicle purchasing policy to ensure that electric vehicles are the first choice, and keep up to date with vehicle manufacturing strategies for larger or more difficult vehicles.
 5. Change the planting strategies for Council-owned flower beds to create more permanent planting, which is useful for pollinators.
 6. Review the management plans for parks and open spaces to create more wild flower planting areas, instead of grass which then needs cutting.
 7. This leads on to declaring an Ecological Emergency as well, which would acknowledge the need to take action to protect our birds, insects & mammals.
 8. Ensure that Council purchasing policy has as its main principle that purchases are made from the most environmentally-responsible businesses and organisations.

What the Council Could Encourage Others to Do:

1. Inform the inhabitants of the Bay about the declaration and its consequent effects on Council policy. There are a number of groups/routes to do this, e.g. the newly-formed Torbay Over 50's Assemblies in Brixham, Paignton & Torquay.
2. Change their travel habits to use public transport instead of their car. This of course may require putting pressure on bus operators to improve their services.
3. Changes to the English Riviera advertising to inform potential visitors to come by train or coach. Perhaps you would then need to review how many car parks & parking spaces you supply.
4. Walk and cycle more, with the added benefit of improving people's health.
5. The biggest challenge seems to me is how to encourage more (lots more!) people to become involved and making changes.

I was pleased to see that Torbay have declared a Climate Emergency, and have asked for input from the community.

Local Spark: Torbay Community Supported Enterprise, works to help build resilience in Torbay by supporting local people who want to set up socially useful businesses. We link them to older people who already have experience, and run workshops and events. We will soon have funding to re-launch the Torbay Social Enterprise Network. We will be meeting Steve Darling and Alan Denby at the end of August, but in the meantime would like to input to this conversation.

We ask that you:

- Also declare an Ecological Emergency, as the two issues are completely interdependent.
 - Work with local organisations and groups to set up a Citizens Assembly. This would help to share ideas and actions. It would also mitigate the a risk of duplication if there is no collaboration across the Bay. There are already good models in existence which could be replicated.
 - Encourage resilience by taking every opportunity to ensure that procurement decisions give priority to local, or at least regional businesses. Ideally Social Enterprises.
 - All areas of the Council should ensure that all policies prioritise both resilience and mitigation.
 - The Oversight & Scrutiny Committee should ensure that all decisions made take into account the need for both resilience and mitigation.
 - There should be a major focus on communicating what actions are taken both by the Council and other organisations – using all types of media to reach all sections of the community.
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In response to your enquiry we can confirm that we have adopted the following regarding climate change at Torquay Girls' Grammar School:

Strategically, we have made **'Caring for the Planet'** the one of our core aims.

We have instigated the following over the past year:

- Creation of an Eco-Committee.
 - Creation of an eco-award leading to an eco-badge.
 - Re-wilding of parts of the site.
 - Meat free Mondays.
 - Creation of extensive vegetable garden and orchard area.
 - Encouraging walking/cycling to school and the sharing of lifts.
 - Running a green Met Gala using up cycled clothes or clothes made from rubbish.
 - Girls arranged a meeting with Kevin Foster MP to challenge him on green policies.
 - Year 7 have created a video pointing out climate issues.
 - We changed caterers to a more eco-friendly company.
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In my opinion carbon emissions and bee population are highest priority as we need to start improving those in order for us to survive.

Key ways to help:

- * Local resident Incentives eg for rewilding, using public transport
- * stop mowing verges and sow native wildflower seeds instead
- * give residents free wildflower seeds, free trees
- * incentives to use recycling centres

- * give residents council tax discounts if they can prove they've eg switched to renewable energy, bought an electric car, reduced their landfill bin content
- * Business rate discounts for businesses reducing fossil fuel usage
- * encourage "reduce, reuse, recycle" through the bay
- * ban use of plastic and styrofoam and non-recyclable takeaway containers