

Brixham Town Council

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Title:	Climate Emergency		
To:	Evaluation	Date:	25.07.19
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Purpose of Report

At the Full Council meeting on 20th June, Brixham Town Council made the following resolution:

That the Town Council recognises the negative impact of human activity on the planet's climate and biodiversity, and agrees to:

- a) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) Pledge to ask Torbay to do the same and to work with the Town Council to make Brixham and Torbay carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- c) Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- d) Work with other local authorities (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- e) Work with partners across Torbay, the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- f) With all this in mind, to ask Torbay to develop an action plan within 6 months, outlining how the Council will address this emergency. The Action Plan will detail the leadership role Torbay Council will take in promoting community, public, business and other Council partnerships to achieve this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment. The Action Plan will also outline adequate staff time and resources to undertake the actions to achieve the target. It will also set out how it will work with Brixham Town Council to achieve this commitment in Brixham.

This report is to help the Town Council understand the work that is now required in order to achieve such a comprehensive resolution and consider how the Town Council can take the lead in demonstrating what they are doing towards the goal to become carbon neutral.

Work Carried Out

The following has been carried out since the resolution was made:

- a) A press release has been issued and is also available to view on the Town Council website and social media sites. It will also go in the October Brixham Signal.
- b) A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Torbay Council and copied to the Interim Director of Place and Cabinet Member who are responsible for this subject. They have been advised of the Town Councils resolution and requested that (a) the Town Council is invited to and included in their meetings regarding climate emergency and (b) encourage Torbay Council to join Devon County Council's 'Devon Climate Emergency Response Group'.

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group

The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers of about 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and has been established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the Devon Climate Emergency response.

Extracts from their Terms of Reference:

Vision

A net-zero carbon Devon, with its environment and communities resilient to the effects of inevitable climate change. Net-zero means that the balance of carbon sinks and emissions in any one year will be zero.

Scope

The scope extends across all carbon-emitting activity in Devon (including production and consumption emissions), and climate-related risks to its communities. This includes all those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate in Devon.

Objectives

To coordinate a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to:

- facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest.
- prepare Devon for the necessary adaptations to infrastructure and services to respond to a 1.5-degree warmer world.

Deliverables

1. A Devon Carbon Plan
2. A review of Devon's climate-related community risks and opportunities
3. A plan from each signatory to the Devon Climate Declaration, within 6 months of signing, to reduce their organisational carbon emissions

Role

To provide strategic coordination to ensure appropriate processes are collectively planned, resourced and delivered to achieve the project objectives and deliverables.

Membership

Membership will be by invitation to strategic and membership organisations to provide representation across the identified sectors. Organisations currently involved are:

Local Authorities

Dartmoor National Park Authority
Devon Association of Local Councils
Devon County Council
East Devon District Council
Exeter City Council
Exmoor National Park Authority
Mid Devon District Council
North Devon District Council
Plymouth City Council
South Hams District Council
Teignbridge District Council

Torridge District Council
West Devon Borough Council

Environment

Devon Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Natural Devon

Research Institutions

Met Office
University of Exeter

Emergency Services and Preparedness

Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum
Devon and Cornwall Police
South West Ambulance Service Trust

Health

Public Health England
Public Health Devon
Devon CCG

Business

Heart of the South West LEP

Utility Operators

South West Water
Western Power Distribution

You will note that Plymouth City Council, which is a unitary authority, is a member of this group. Subsequent to sending the letter, the Town Clerk has had a meeting with the Interim Director of Place who has advised that Torbay Council will contact Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and request a invite to future meetings.

Climate Emergency Declaration

The following Town Councils have declared a Climate Emergency:

Town Councils

Totnes Town Council
Frome Town Council
Ladock Parish Council
Oswestry Town Council
Machynlleth Town Council
Langport Town Council
Stithians Parish Council
Falmouth Town Council
Aberystwyth Town Council
Tywyn Town Council
Glastonbury Town Council
Chard Town Council
Wirksworth Town Council
Saint Just-in-Penwith Town Council

Saint Neots Town Council
Kington Town Council
Welshpool Town Council
Bradford-on-Avon Town Council
Bideford Town Council
Buckfastleigh Town Council
Watlington Parish Council
Ashburton Town Council
Newport Town Council
Dartington Parish Council
Bridgwater Town Council
Helston Town Council
Shrewsbury Town Council
Leominster Town Council
Otley Town Council
Holme Valley Parish Council
Birchwood Town Council
Llanidloes Town Council
Kendal Town Council
Cardigan Town Council
Rattery Parish Council
St Ives Parish Council
Bishopsteignton Parish Council
Belper Town Council
Pennard Community Council
Bridport Town Council
South Brent Parish Council
Lancing Parish Council
Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
Ottery St. Mary Town Council
Macclesfield Town Council
Ross-on-Wye Town Council
Newbury Town Council
Leafield Parish Council
Caia Park Community Council
Ludlow Town Council
Matlock Town Council
Bridgnorth Town Council
Cockermouth Town Council
Brixham Town Council
Haddenham Parish Council
Thatcham Town Council
Lowestoft Town Council
Hythe Town Council
Woodbridge Town Council

Next Steps

There are a number of Town Councils that have created Action Plans. As a guide, the following is a list of what Frome Town Council is trying and some, or all, could be implemented as part of Brixham Town Council's decision-making process:

Solar Streets

In Frome the local installer, Iddea is offering significantly discounted solar installations to local residents if ten or more sign up. Referrers get £100 and £50 goes towards free solar panels for their YMCA's local youth centre.

Commercial Offer

Companies such as Green Nation can install free solar on commercial roofs and offer building users a significant discount.

Community energy

Contact Devon Community Energy Network to find out more about what they are doing and see if they can provide free community owned solar panels on local buildings – this works particularly well on community focused organisations such as Medical Practices and sports clubs.

Cut carbon at local schools

Encourage local schools to sign up to Energy Sparks. It's free to join and provides real time information on energy including out of hours, as well as curriculum led activities to help reduce costs and carbon.

Cut carbon and methane from food

Consider a community fridge. Hubbub run the national community fridge network and offer support for new groups to set up.

Electric charge points

Zero Carbon World can provide free chargers on commercial and community buildings (but don't cover installation or metering). Raw Charging can provide EV charge points for free in areas where usage will be high. Raw Charging cover all costs, users pay via their phone or card and Raw do a profit share once utilisation has reached a certain point.

Car club

Encourage car club providers to hire hybrid vehicles. One car club car displaces around ten privately owned vehicles on average and are often lower emission too.

Developers

Encourage developers to work in partnership with community energy organisations to install solar, batteries and a microgrid to maximise renewable generation on site.

Please note: some of the companies listed above are only available in the Somerset area.

Ideas for Brixham

The Town Council could consider:

Sustainable resources within the Town Hall regeneration project

Aim to become a net zero building ie renewable energy as well as replacing lights for LED and installing motion sensors to ensure lights are not left on.

Replace consumables used within the Town Hall for biodegradable / eco-friendly alternative products

Replace plastic bin bags for biodegradable alternatives, purchase larger bottles of consumables to refill the smaller bottles, reduce paper consumption, introduce an e-newsletter replacing the current paper version.

Encourage Tenants and Hirers to reduce, reuse and recycle

Replace bins around the building for dual bins to encourage recycling, turn off electronics, lighting and heating wherever possible. Within the Council office, the number of bins have been reduced to encourage staff to use one dual purpose bin.

Green travel policy

Encourage car sharing, cycling initiatives ie cycle parks, cycle lanes, encourage residents to walk or replace their vehicles for electric vehicles.

Work with Torbay Council for the installation of:

- car charging points
- bicycle parking
- public shower facilities for those cycling to work

Consider replacing the Town Lengthsman diesel van to an electric one.

Pesticide free town

The Community Services Committee have made a recommendation that will go to the August Full Council meeting encouraging the reduction of pesticides and the use of alternative environmentally friendly products used by the Town Council.

Water refills stations

Encourage businesses (including the Town Council) to sign up to the refill Devon and become a Refill Station. Businesses do not need to go to the expense of installing water coolers or fountains; they just need to offer free tap water refills to customers.

Environment

Create wildlife havens on allotment sites and other areas around the town.

Work with bus companies to consider creating bee stops. In a Dutch city 316 bus stops have been adapted to have grass and wildflower roofs, turning them into a bee haven.

Schools

Work with schools who are introducing climate change to their pupils and help them facilitate their projects. The following is an example of one school in Brixham:

St. Margaret Clitherow now have a recycling hub in Brixham and are working towards their school becoming an Eco-School and ultimately aiming to be a plastic free school. As part of this journey they recycle the following items:

- crisp packets
- bread bags
- pens/felt tips/highlighters/dry white board markers
- baby food pouches and their lids
- biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers

- toothbrushes (not battery operated) and their packaging

This facility is not just for the school, it is open to the whole community.

Waste

Encourage everyone in the town, whether visitors or locals to reduce, reuse and recycle, ie educate.

Work with Torbay Council to provide better waste and recycling facilities throughout the town ie solar powered bins.

Work with Torbay Harbour Authority to discuss ways to reduce waste floating in the harbour. This can be done by working with organisations such as Surfers Against Sewage.

Recommendations

The Town Council has agreed to merge the Plastics Working Group and the Waste Working Group to a new group called the Climate and Environment Working Group. The following still needs to be considered:

1. Membership
2. Terms of Reference including aims and objectives