

Torbay Climate Partnership

Minutes

02 July 2025

2:00 – 4:00 pm

South Devon College

Attendees: Matthew Green (Chair), Cllr Fox, Jacqui Warren, Kevin Dixon, Melanie Border, Tara Bowers, Chris Gunson, Gary Calland, Helen Warren, Jed Stephenson, Liz Muir, Michael Roseveare, William Jackson-Nichols, Alex Carter, Emily Reed, Sam Swann, Davina Luther,

Apologies: Cllr Chris Lewis, Cllr Billings, Tom Dauben, Joanne Brimblecombe, Kirsty Parker-Callard, Liam Montgomery, Louise Marshall, Emma Magee, Jake O'Donovan, Alison Bayliss, David Stewart. Steve Nash, Dan Vickridge, Andrew Gunther, Chris Gomm, David Edmondson, Bethan Huntley, David Hodson,

1.Welcome

David Edmondson was unable to attend the meeting, so Matt Green (MG) was acting as Chair for the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MG highlighted that Emma Magee was leaving her post at the EA and would be replaced by David Shorton. The group wanted to note their thanks for her many contributions to the partnership.

2.Previous Minutes / Actions

MG ran through the actions from the Torbay Climate Partnership's 24th April 2025 meeting:

Action	Owner	July Update	Action Open or Closed?
April's meeting			
Action: Emma Magee to send Andrew Gunther details of existing mapping undertaken.	EM	EM is leaving post so this action is to be closed.	Closed.
Melanie Border to update the TCP on Promote Green Assets/geopark/seagrass action as it progresses.	MB	See item 3a.	Closed.

Jacqui Warren and Tara Bower to lead an item on retrofitting homes at the July meeting.	JW/TB	See item 3c.	Closed.
Green resort/accreditation scheme for tourism to be added to the July meeting for further discussion. Including looking at national or local accreditation programmes.	JW	See item 3b.	Closed.
Collaboration on climate adaptation item to be added to forthcoming meeting	JW	To be added as a deep dive	Remain open
Partners to contact Bethan directly if they would like to help create a consultation response on the LGA's open consultation on climate change. The Council will separately be doing their own response.	BH	No update from BH but action to remain open. JW confirmed that the council has completed their own response to the consultation.	Remain open.
Marine Forum is not meeting. Rob Parson's replacement was not picking this up. David Edmondson to pick up with Matthew Reeks of SWISCo	DE	No progress – New Action – DE to speak to Alan Denby about getting the marine forum restarted to support the delivery in the conservation of the marine environment and safety within Torbay.	New Action
Action: Emma Magee and Davina Luther to meet with SWISCo to discuss any potential funding and support for future tree planting projects.	Emma Magee/ Davina Luther		
Emily Reed and Adam Luscombe to discuss shared EV charging facilities	ER/AL	ER has emailed AL to discuss opportunities for shared EV charging.	Remain open.
Emily Reed and Davina Luther to meet and	ER/DL	ER has emailed	Remain open.

connect on regional schools support available			
---	--	--	--

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 24th April 2025 were approved as an accurate record and signed off.

3. The TCP identified in their previous meetings the following 2 themes to deep dive into.

a) Promoting Green Assets/Geopark/Seagrass

Melanie Border (MB) gave an overview of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and the TerraFirma project, which has been awarded grant funding of £250k from the National Lottery Heritage fund to deliver the three-year project. The project has specific commissions such as facilitating organisational resilience through the implementation of a new governance and management framework, revenue resilience and financial modelling.

MB highlighted how the climate agenda and promotion is incorporated into the project through gaps or opportunities work to promote green assets.

Action: MB to continue to provide updates.

b) Green resort with accreditation scheme

Jacqui Warren (JW) outlined current work across the Council that supports helps Torbay becoming a green resort with an accreditation scheme for tourism and business sectors.

Partners supported the current schemes. It was asked if there was an opportunity to expand the scheme or change the wording so it was clear the scheme was open to business that weren't tourism focused.

It was raised whether large business support was also needed. It was felt that larger businesses already have teams and the support needed to decarbonise. The focus of this work should remain on SMEs.

The TCP also discussed developing an ask of the Devon and Torbay County Combined Authority for further net zero/green tourism support.

Action: JW to bring a draft ask back to the TCP for consideration at the relevant time.

c) Torbay Retrofit Housing Strategy

At previous meeting, TCP partners expressed concern that much more is needed to help residents retrofit their homes in line with net zero targets. Some also felt they did not understand all the issues and how to deliver more action. JW and Tara Bower presented on the Torbay Retrofit Strategy including the current work by ECOE that is funded by the shared prosperity fund and other sources.

TB gave an overview of ECOE's current work including ECOE advice that provides practical energy saving advice and small-scale energy savings installations to homes across Torbay.

JW gave an overview of the current support and initiatives that are underway to provide support such as Energy Saving Devon, the Warm Homes Grant, and the impact of updates to the local plan refresh and the governments expected Future Homes Standard. JW was keen to highlight the importance of local green skills needed to support the delivery of retrofit across Torbay based on the numbers needed to meet the 2050 net zero carbon target.

No Housing Retrofit Strategy was proposed as needed by the TCP.

Item 4. Moving Forward - Priority actions for 2025

Following on from December's meeting, the Partnership continued to review the long list of actions they identified as a priority for 2025. The TCP agreed the following themes for deep dives at for the next meeting:

- Climate Adaptation - Find ways to maximise information from the ARSINOE data and translate for the public &;
- Renewable Energy - Do we know how much in Torbay and where the opportunities are and how can we increase the harnessing of solar and wind power.

Action: JW and partners to present on these themes at the next meeting of the partnership.

Item 5. Roundtable / AOB

Alex Carter (AC) gave an update on a recent school engagement workshop that was focused on providing support to Council maintained and PFI schools to create their climate action plans. A requirement from the DfE by the end of 2025. The Workshop was delivered with support from the Climate Ambassadors scheme, which has been setup as a form of local support for schools to help with decarbonisation, climate adaption, biodiversity and other areas in schools climate action plans. The Workshop covered the key themes that will be needed in school's individual plans and the support available to help them create and deliver actions they wish to take forward.

JW highlighted that there is one Climate Ambassador in Torbay currently, but the programme is open for others to undertake the training programme and for colleagues to share this in their networks. Climate Ambassadors training has been organised on 4th September (2-4 pm, Council Offices, Tor Hill House) and is open to any who wish to become climate ambassadors.

Emily Reed (ER) highlighted the event that is set for 27th November which is for schools, and which will focus on growing an understanding of climate adaptation and how actions on adaption can be captured into school's climate action plans a link to the event is attached;

[Sustainability conference: Empowering schools towards a sustainable future | DES](#)

JW also highlighted a message from Bethan Huntley on Cycling UK Big Bike sessions;

I would be most grateful if members of the partnership can help spreading the word or maybe even refer people who may be interested in the adult electric bike confidence sessions I will be running.

These sessions are part of the Cycling UK Big Bike Revival and I have funding to also hire electric bikes for participants or they can bring their own.

They will start from Torquay Harbour and will be on Wednesdays at 10:30 am - 23rd and 30th July, 6th August and then 13th, 20th and 27th September.

People can book as many sessions as they would like to do and via EventBrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adult-e-bike-confidence-building-tickets-1389016147689>