



Oswestry Rural Parish Council

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Climate change is having a significant impact on the environment. Some of its effects include shrinking glaciers as ice melts earlier each year causing sea water to rise, plant and animal ranges are moving from their normal territories, and trees and other plants are flowering sooner.

Climate change is caused by greenhouse gases as a result of human activities. This has led to global warming, which has increased over the past few decades, a pattern that is predicted to continue. The intensity, frequency and duration of hurricanes in the North Atlantic have caused destruction, and droughts have been caused through heat waves. Many lives and homes have been lost through the disasters that climate change has caused.

We need to try to be more efficient with our use of energy and try to reduce waste where possible if we are to preserve our limited resources and maintain a sustainable planet.

In pursuance of the **Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006** every local authority must, in exercising any of their functions, have regard to the most recently published energy measures report (if any). This means that the Parish Council has a duty to do all that it can to help maintain and improve the environmental well-being of the Council's area.

To this end, this Action Plan has been developed to promote and encourage a move towards a low-carbon economy and the reduction of waste within the local community.

Information sourced from NASA available at: <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/> and National Geographic available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/global-warming-effects/>

ACTIVITY	ACTION	METHODOLOGY	EVALUATION
Energy savings within the community	<p>Inform the local community how energy consumption can be reduced.</p> <p>Raise awareness by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaying advisory posters. • Providing relative information on the Council's website/notice boards and newsletters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch off lights. • Use energy efficient light bulbs. • Do not leave taps running. • Keep windows and doors closed in winter to help reduce heat loss. • Only boil sufficient water in kettles for the amount of drinks required. • Turn down thermostats. • Introduce energy monitors/smart meters. 	<p>Monitor utility bills and use the most cost-efficient energy suppliers.</p>
Travel	<p>Use alternate means of travel to reduce motor vehicle journeys where possible, such as walking and cycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only make necessary journeys. • Carry as little weight in vehicles as possible. • Do not keep engine running unnecessarily. • Use public transport where possible. • Walk/cycle where possible. • Use electric/hybrid vehicles. • Car share where possible. • Lobby Shropshire Council to provide better public transport. 	<p>Monitor fuel consumption when making motor vehicle journeys.</p>
Promote energy efficiency within the community	<p>Raise awareness through parish newsletters, website and notice boards.</p> <p>Seek advice from agencies such as Marches Energy Agency https://www.mea.org.uk/</p> <p>and</p> <p>the Energy Saving Trust https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the community to take action. • Assist with community projects. • Work with partners. • Publicise the availability of grants to assist with energy efficiency projects. • Encourage moves towards a low-carbon economy. • Promote high standards of energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. • Support small scale proposals for hydro-electricity, solar energy, anaerobic digestion, biomass and wood fuel products where appropriate. • Support local produce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor energy savings. • Carry out energy audit.

ACTIVITY	ACTION	METHODOLOGY	EVALUATION
Flood management	Help to minimise flooding when responding to planning applications by supporting absorbent surfaces and adequate surface water run-off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the slowing down of surface water flow. Support the protection and improvement of water quality. 	Monitor the impact of rainfall.
Recycling	Reduce waste by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recycling wastepaper. recycling glass. recycling used ink cartridges. recycling plastic. recycling metal. recycling used batteries. repair instead of replace where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the use of paper by storing data electronically, communicate by email, use double sided printing. Use re-chargeable batteries. Re-use where possible. Repair where possible. Re-cycle where possible. 	Monitor Shropshire Council's recycling targets.

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