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## **Climate Action Plan – Updated 07/03/2020**

### **Vision**

For Barnstaple Town Council (BTC) and the town of Barnstaple (including peripheral parishes) to become carbon-neutral and carbon cost-neutral by 2030.

### **Scope**

To include all carbon emitting activity in Barnstaple including from those who live, work and visit the town, plus from businesses who are based and operate here (to include farming, home energy and transport) in so far as the Council's remit and/or capacity allows.

## **Priorities**

1. Collaborate effectively with other stakeholders, e.g. councils, community groups, businesses, educational institutions and the public.
2. Commit to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through its own actions and procurements.
3. Place carbon reduction opportunities at the heart of the Council's committees, policies, procedures, contracts and plans.
4. Improve the natural resources of the Council's green spaces and energy efficiency of its properties & built environment whilst respecting the heritage of Barnstaple.
5. Empower groups and individuals to fight against climate change by improving their own practices with provision of educational materials, information and a programme of activities.
6. Call on Westminster to provide the necessary powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
7. Raise funds for action.
8. Monitoring and feedback.

## List of abbreviations

BTC – Barnstaple Town Council  
CAT – Climate Action Team (NDC)  
CEWG – Climate Emergency Working Group (BTC)  
DCC – Devon County Council  
ENV – Environment Committee  
FGP – Finance & General Purposes Committee  
GOV – Corporate Governance Working Group  
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
NDC – North Devon Council  
NDH – North Devon Homes  
PET – Petroc Sustainability Team  
PF – Plastic Free  
PFB – Plastic Free Barnstaple  
PFND – Plastic Free North Devon  
PLN – Planning Committee  
RPT – Rock Park Trust  
SWW – South West Water  
WPD – Western Power Distribution  
361 – 361 Community Energy

Task RAG rating: Not started Underway Completed

## List of people

AB – Andrew Bell (North Devon Biosphere Service Mgr)  
AD – Rev. Andy Dodwell  
AO – Anne-Marie O'Brien (Petroc)  
AR – Cllr Alan Rennles (Mayor)  
CB – Claire Balsden (361 Community Energy)  
CFHL – Cllr Caroline Leaver (NDC)  
CL – Clive Leworthy  
GC – George Curry (Extinction Rebellion (XR))  
GP – Gill Preston (BTC Administration Officer)  
HH – Hannah Harrington (NDC Barnstaple Town Centre Mgr)  
IP – Ian Parker (BTC Amenities & Property Manager)  
JC – Cllr Janet Coates  
JL – Jacky Linden (BTC Administration Officer)  
JP – Cllr Jeremy Phillips (Chair of Finance & GP Ctte)  
JR – Janine Reed (BTC Assistant to Town Clerk)  
JS – Cllr Jake Slee (Vice Chair of Environment Ctte)  
LLT – Louise Lecky-Thompson (BTC Civic & Ceremonial Mgr)  
LY – Cllr Louisa York (Chair of Environment Ctte & CEWG)  
MK – Martin Kennaugh (Plastic Free Barnstaple)  
ML – Cllr Mel Lovering (Chair Heritage, Culture & Comm. Ctte)  
MS – Megan Sanders (BTC Heritage & Cultural Manager)  
NC – Nicola Corrigan (361 Community Energy)  
NL – Natasha Lewis (BTC Finance Officer)  
NP – Cllr Netti Pearson (NDC)  
RH – Rachael Hunter (361 Community Energy)  
RK – Cllr Ricky Knight  
RM – Cllr Robbie Mack  
RW – Rob Ward (BTC Town Clerk)  
SP – Steve Pitcher (XRND)

# 1. Collaborate effectively with other stakeholders, e.g. councils, community groups, businesses, educational institutions and the public

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
1	Set up a Climate Emergency Working Group which reports to the Environment Committee	●			To include Town Clerk, Councillors and other stakeholders Continue to invite further relevant, interested parties: 361 Community Energy – CB Petroc – AO Biosphere - AB	RW CEWG	LY	
2	Attend NDC Climate Action Team (CAT) meetings	●			Liaise with NDC Lead Member for Climate Change, Cllr Caroline Leaver, Cllr Netti Pearson and NDC Head of Place, Michael Tichford		LY RM	
3	Join Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy	●			Mayor, Town Clerk and CEWG Chair to meet and sign up. 28/01/2020 <a href="https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org">https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org</a>	RW	AR LY	
4	Offer Guildhall for free to host potential DCC Citizens' Panel based in North Devon (4 sessions over 7 weeks in May/June 2020)	●			Contact Ken Miles (Chief Executive, NDC) Run past ML	RW	LY	
5	Become a Stop Ecocide 'Earth Protector Town'	●	●		Investigate requirements and benefits Framework launches April 2020 <a href="https://www.stopecocide.earth/earth-protector-towns">https://www.stopecocide.earth/earth-protector-towns</a>		RK	

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
6	Sign up to Biosphere Reporters' Network	•			Arrange for someone to come and talk to the CEWG/Council – Tel: 01271 388647 Put proposal to Council and nominate the BTC Biosphere Reporter (Does not need to be a Councillor). Send details to Coordinator, Peter Howard, a member of the Biosphere Partnership from Winkleigh. BTC Biosphere Reporter to attend training and advice session	CEWG		
7	Contact PETROC Environmental Studies Department / Person with climate change responsibility	•			Invite to the CEWG		LY	
8	Sign DCC Climate Declaration (Devon Climate Emergency Response Group)	•			<a href="https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-climate-declaration/">https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-climate-declaration/</a> Send email to: <a href="mailto:environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk">environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk</a> with accompanying evidence, such as a hyperlink to the minute of a meeting.	CEWG	LY	
9	Invite Jo Pullin of the Tarka Country Trust to the CEWG to talk about wildflower verges	•			Contact Jo at <a href="mailto:verges@tarkacountrytrust.org.uk">verges@tarkacountrytrust.org.uk</a> or 07855 660319 Involve Ian Parker (Amenities & Property Manager)	IP CL	LY ML	

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
10	<b>URGENT</b> Contribute to the DCC Net Zero Task Force Consultation by 31/01/2020	●			Four themes: 1. Food, land and sea (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and land use) 2. Mobility (transport – air, land and sea) 3. The built environment (energy efficiency, lighting, heating and cooling needs, construction) 4. Energy and waste (heat and electricity generation, storage and supply)	CEWGG	RM RK	361
11	Involvement from pupils from local schools	●	●	●	Pilton Community College, Pilton Bluecoats, Pilton Infants (Contact Jayne Kyle, Head), Pathfield School & Yeo Valley School		JC	
12	Involvement from cubs/scouts	●	●	●	12 <sup>th</sup> North Devon Scouts (Vicki Russell) 1 <sup>st</sup> North Devon Scouts (Mark Etheridge)		JC	
13	Involvement from youth climate activists (Fridays For Future, Barnstaple)	●			Harvey and?		RM	
14	Reduce impact of night-time light pollution on wildlife, particularly looking at part-night lighting and different hues/intensity		●		Contact DCC		RM	

## 2. Commit to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through its own actions and procurements.

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
1	Complete energy efficiency baselining	●			Obtain comparative quotes from: 361 Community Energy University of Exeter (Refer to NDC spreadsheet – LY has a copy) Investigate 'Smart Living' Investigate building surveyors Refer to Frome spreadsheet Refer to/Update/Resurrect BTC's Green Audit	RW	RK	361
2	Go plastic-free		●		Remove plastic cups from water dispensers Consciously buy food and drink for events with PF packaging Reduce use of plastic office consumables, e.g. plastic laminates Create list of resources which can be called on when planning events, such as PFND glass hire/Local producers	ALL MS LLT		MK PFB PFND
3	Replace Mitsubishi pickup with an EV alternative		●		Select and purchase/lease suitable alternative Calculate outlay + on costs vs long term saving Install EV charging points at BTC sites (Cost?)	IP RW	RM	
4	Change to green energy suppliers	●			Renew energy contracts for buildings at relevant renewal points	NL RW		361 CB

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
5	Replace cleaning products with eco-friendly alternatives				Source suitable alternatives	ALL		
6	Gain accreditation		●		Investigate accreditation bodies e.g. Planet Mark/Eden Project (Petroc have gained this mark), Green Flag ( <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/">http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/</a> ) Plastic Free (confirmed) [see 2:2] Earth Protector Town [see 1:5]	?		AO NC
7	Improve waste management/Recycling		●		Barum House Amenities	IP		
8	Reduce vehicle mileage	●			Consider ways of reducing journeys made by vehicles in the course of amenities maintenance Consider ways of reducing journeys made by staff to/from work by car Consider ways of reducing journeys made by councillors to/from meetings by car	ALL	ALL	
9	Provide admin support to the CEWG	●			Allocate time available by a member of BTC staff to minute meetings and practical project support as required by the CEWG	RW GP JL		
10	Consider eco-friendly options when planning civic and heritage events	●	●	●	Purchases Refreshments Transportation Artifacts Management	LLT MS		



	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIr	Stake holder
11	Transfer Council's money to green bank / savings accounts. Make green investments.		●		Migrate BTC bank accounts: TRIODOS / Co-op / Unity banks CAF – Charities Aid Foundation	RW		AD

### 3. Place carbon reduction opportunities at the heart of the Council's committees, policies, procedures, contracts and plans

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
1	Create Climate Emergency standing item on all committee agendas	●			Councillors to consider climate implications of any decisions made. Update Standing Orders Update policies Create report template	RW	ALL GOV	
2	Rewrite contracts for users of our facilities e.g. PF requirements	●			Rock Park hire application form/contracts Venue hire application form/contracts	RW	RPT FGP	
3	Embed Climate Emergency considerations into Neighbourhood Plan		●		Refer to Centre for Sustainable Energy's Toolkit for introducing Climate Change issues into Neighbourhood Plans <a href="https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans/community-engagement">https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans/community-engagement</a> See Exmouth Town Council for example of the workload: <a href="https://www.exmouth.gov.uk/exmouth-neighbourhood-plan/">https://www.exmouth.gov.uk/exmouth-neighbourhood-plan/</a> Public consultation / Referendum Ask NDH what the energy-efficiency of current housing stock looks like	RW	ALL PLN	
4	Town Clerk to attend NALC/DALC meetings for Town Clerks	●	●	●	Gather climate change information and disseminate to councillors and the CEWG Larger Councils	RW		

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIr	Stake holder
5	Adopt CEWG Action Plan (this Doc)	•			Pass through Environment Committee and Full Council		ALL	

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## 4. Improve the natural resources of the Council's green spaces and energy efficiency of its properties & built environment whilst respecting the heritage of Barnstaple

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	Cllr	Stake holder
1	Select and procure water / bottle refill fountains	●			Rock Park Other sites: Guildhall, Barum House/Square, St Anne's Chapel, Library/Castle Green Barnstaple Lions Club	JR	ENV RPT FGP	
2	Replace weed killers/pesticides with eco-friendly alternatives and/or practices	●			Investigate alternative products / weed spraying methods	IP		
3	Install recycling bins Determine who's responsible for waste collection	●			Research suitable bins Select suitable locations - Allotment sites Make budget available Liaise with HH / NDC regarding waste collection (Cllr Netti Pearson, Lead Member for the Environment and Ricky McCormack, Head of Operational Services)	JR IP	ENV	HH NDC
4	Community composting		●		Contact Bratton Fleming PC as they have been running a community composting scheme for some yrs	IP		

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
5	Create or promote an existing community orchard		●		Rotary Gardens (Martin Hadrill / Dr George Hands) Yeo Valley (Andrew Moulton) Sunset Heights Advertise on website Requirement for new housing developments? Speak to Andrew Loosemore of Mark Cann re: Community Orchard being set up at Garden Green development on Landkey Road Contact Mike Jones (NDC) regarding use of the land by Rotary Gardens Possible locations: Grass area at top of Beech Grove (DCC) and at Longstone (DCC) at the top of Under Minnow Road, Pilton	CEWGG	PLN ENV	
6	Create calendar of BTC litter-picking events				Rock Park Every ward – led by ward councillors Reinstate 'Tidy Up Our Town'		ALL RPT	
7	Plant trees and wildflowers	●	●	●	Identify parcels of land for tree planting – Roundabouts/Verges/Hanging Baskets (Barnstaple in Bloom)/Rock Park/Pilton Park/Forches Park (near school)/Whiddon Valley/Coney Gut Liaise with Woodland Trust Plant up more wildflower areas Wildlife corridors in suburban developments to promote biodiversity Rewilld maintained land	IP CL	RPT ENV	
8	Use our waterways to generate power?		●	●	Mill leats Bradford Water Coney Gut Lobby for 'Local Electricity Bill' (See Priority 6)			

## 5. Empower groups and individuals to fight against climate change by improving their own practices with provision of educational materials, etc.

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	Cllr	Stakeholder
1	Community carbon footprint (Frome Spreadsheet)	●	●	●	Stimulate debate, discussion and action about how we move from an energy system based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable energy			GC SP
2	Create a Climate Emergency page on the BTC website	●			Create webspace for CEWG Decide what needs to be included: carbon-neutral definition, BTC declaration, CEWG ToR, CEWG Action Plan + progress & performance reports, CEWG minutes, press releases, FAQ, educational materials, links to key organisations (global, national, local), recycling info, BTC achievements, local initiatives, local success stories, TED talks, public survey, businesses survey, show annual carbon emissions by sector/per person/household from Government and IPCC docs, SWW hippos, Promote 'Shop Local', Encourage growing own food and reduce food waste, Encourage low-carbon diets including plant-based meals	CEWG RW JR		

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
3	Provide encouragement for people to walk and cycle more	●	●	●	Provide bike racks/safe storage for bicycles Work with DCC to improve safety of cycleways inc. better signage on cycle paths Work with employers to improve provision for bicycles Provide bicycle rack / storage map (Neighbourhood Plan?) Sustrans Safe Journeys to School and Work Encourage 'Walking buses' to primary schools and persuade parents not to drive to school unless absolutely necessary to prevent congestion at Rock Park entrance/Abbey Road/Chaddiford Lane/Park School/Petroc, etc Liaise with 'Bike Shed'	ALL	ALL	
4	Create an award scheme (presentations at Annual Town Meeting in April)		●		For individuals who go above and beyond For community groups For businesses For schools	ALL	ALL	
5	Devise a program of activities	●	●	●	Refer to Totnes programme of events for ideas Staffing/volunteers for this? Inc. Mrs Recycle? PF North Devon/Barnstaple? World Café? One Barnstaple? Petroc? 361 Community Energy? Etc. Collaborate with NDC CAT – Climate Action Week 21-28/03/2020 Tidy Up Our Town? Attend / organise an Eco Fair	ALL	ALL	HH CB AO

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
6	Information packs created for councillor advice surgeries (Non-political)	●	●	●	Ongoing dissemination of information for residents Minimise paper by providing a digital tablet for surgeries Capture resident info (GDPR compliant) and get them to sign up for email updates about BTC activities Consider holding surgeries in the Pannier Market on a monthly basis	RW JR	ALL	
7	Hold public meetings to involve the community and find volunteers and people who can run workshops, etc	●	●	●	Refer to Totnes 'Community Conversation' flyer: <a href="https://wrt.org.uk/event/totnes-declares-a-climate-emergency-a-community-conversation/">https://wrt.org.uk/event/totnes-declares-a-climate-emergency-a-community-conversation/</a> When engaging with the public consider floating the idea of creating a climate action hub in Barnstaple, in the same way that Bideford, Ilfracombe and Lynton are doing.	ALL	ALL	
8	Create carbon reducing initiatives	●			Car Free Sunday – Liaise with Nicola Keyworth-Wright, NDC Parking Team		LY	
9	Provide information on car ownership		●		Census Data (2021) DVLA? Car ownership/mileage statistics (There are several reports the government generate based on vehicles which are licenced in the UK, the <b>RAC Foundation</b> produce various reports on vehicle ownership and the <b>SMMT</b> is a useful resource for vehicle data as well. Contact the <b>DFT</b> statistics department as they have all the data and if a published report already exists will signpost you to it and if not could possibly make one. Helpful for regional data: <a href="mailto:vehicles.stats@dft.gov.uk">vehicles.stats@dft.gov.uk</a> )			361 CB



## 6. Call on Westminster to provide the necessary powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	Cllr	Stake holder
1	Lobby for 'Local Electricity Bill'	●			Pass motion at Full Council (This has passed at NDC.)		ALL	
2	Contact Dr Paul Rogers, Director at 361 Community Energy	●			Works for NEA (National Energy Action)	CEWG		361
3	Contact Cllr David Relph (Braunton Parish Council)	●					RK	
4	Lobby Westminster to implement the recommendations of the UK Committee on Climate Change	●			Involve Selaine Saxby, MP for North Devon CO <sub>2</sub> tax on large industry and corporations?		ALL	
5	Regen SW?						RK	

## 7. Raise funds for action.

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
1	DCC funding	●			Investigate			
2	Fullabrook (Project specific grants)	●			Investigate once result of baselining is known	RW	RK	
3	Pickwell foundation grant	●			Investigate		RM	
4	Create CEWG budget line in Environment Committee budget	●			Pass budget through Full Council (January 2020)	RW	ALL	
5	Budget funding for admin support	●			Pass budget through Full Council (January 2020) Appoint member of staff	RW	ALL	
6	Save money where possible	●	●	●	Remove coffee machine Return unnecessary credit card reader Remove water coolers Identify further wastage	ALL		

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIlr	Stake holder
7	Set up a Climate Emergency Crowdfunder	●			Highlight aspects of the work we are doing and ask for donations	CEWG RW NL		
8	'CANDo' £25m to run joint projects (Bid)	●			Investigate this. Consortia – 361 Community Energy / PFND			

## 8. Monitoring and feedback.

	Action	When?			Steps to take and resources required	Responsibility		
		2020/21	2021-2025	2026-2030		BTC	CIr	Stake holder
1	Monitor carbon reduction progress once baseline established	●	●	●	Calculate reductions needed to become carbon-neutral Record carbon reductions annually on each action Carbon measurement in tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e Create a separate document	CEWG		
2	Report on progress and performance	●	●	●	Global Covenant of Mayors Ecocide 'Earth Protector Town' NDC CAT NDC Parish Forum DCC Devon Climate Emergency Biosphere Reporters' Network Publish on website / Social Media / Press	CEWG		