

Congleton Green Working Group	
Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public	

Purpose

Congleton Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and set up the Congleton Green Working Group to lead initiatives that will drive the council's goal to reduce the council's carbon footprint, become a carbon-neutral council by 2025 and work towards creating a more environmentally sustainable and biodiverse town.

The Working Group reports to the Environment Committee, where any significant policy or funding decisions are made. The group meet in private, but members of the public may be invited or co-opted to take part and the minutes of the meeting are made public.

This group works with environmental groups, community organisations and other partners to deliver action on climate change and environmental responsibility.

Areas of work include but are not limited to:

- Carbon Footprint Reduction
- Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Air and Water Quality
- Protection and Creation of Green Spaces
- Improving awareness and education around climate change and environmental sustainability.

Delegation of the Functions of the Working Group

- This a Working Group of the Town Council that reports into the Congleton Town Council Environment Committee. It conducts research, good practice review and brainstorming and generates ideas that will help to achieve our sustainability objectives.
- It is chaired by a member of the Town Council and its membership is made up of interested town councillors plus local experts at the discretion of the group. It will meet as needed but at least four times a year. Separate task teams can also be called on for specific items.
- Minutes will be taken by Town Council staff and the intention is to circulate draft minutes to the chair and forward to the group within a week of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the Town Council website and noted at Environment Committee.
- This is not a decision-making body; all solutions, ideas and funding requirements must be presented to a Council Committee and/or full Council, with relevant supporting evidence, to make a decision.
- All proposals taken from the Group to Committee must explain the impact on the financial, environmental and equality impact of the decision.

Membership, Voting and Rules

- Town Councillors and selected specialists or volunteers may be invited to attend meetings where appropriate.
- Invited or co-opted members will sign a volunteer agreement and be in post for one year, after which their agreement can be renewed if desired.
- The Group can elect its own Chair who must a Town Councillor.

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- The Group may elect a Vice Chair if they wish.
- On an as-needed basis, other specialists may be invited to attend individual meetings.

Congleton Green will work closely with:

- Cheshire East Council and other bodies focussed on the same objectives
- Other Town and Parish Councils
- Local Businesses and the Chamber of Commerce
- Congleton Sustainability Group (Congleton Partnership)
- Congleton Integrated Transport Group (Town Council)
- Plastic Free Congleton (Voluntary Group)
- Congleton Climate Action Group
- Trees for Congleton (Combination Task and Finish Group)

Specific Activities of the Group may include but are not limited to:

- Reduce the carbon footprint for the Town Council’s Assets and Streetscape service.
- Decarbonising the Town Hall with specific structural and operational changes.
- Through partnership working and engagement with the adjoining parishes plant and maintain 30,000 new trees by 2024
- Develop and support the Site-Specific Biodiversity Action Plan
- Develop and improve Streetscape Management systems to promote improved Biodiversity and Sustainability through Sustainable Planting and Eco-design.
- Review existing waste management and recycling facilities and develop new ones where necessary.
- Develop and deliver a campaign(s) promoting our green agenda and the need for action on climate change and sustainability.
- Create awareness of training opportunities for staff and residents to help us deliver a carbon-neutral council and town.
- Maximise opportunities for the retention and enhancement of Green Open Spaces
- To monitor air quality in Congleton and support initiatives to improve it
- To review and monitor water quality in local natural water sources.
- Understand the requirement for Offsetting and possible options to enable us to achieve Carbon Neutrality.