



Streetscape's Climate Emergency Action Plan

Grounds and Street Cleansing Services within Congleton

Please note that this is a working document
and will be updated throughout the year

Background

Congleton Town Council declared a climate Change Emergency on the 19th September at the Town Hall Council Meeting and pledged to:

- Make Congleton Town Council activities and operations carbon neutral by 2025
- In all discussions, debates and decision-making procedures ensure that the climate and environmental impact is thoroughly considered and recorded
- Report back on actions and plans to various council committees and working groups.

In making these commitments, the Council recognised that the impacts of climate change are now being seen across the world and there was no doubt that action was needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Progress to date

A number of groups under the umbrella of 'Congleton Green' are working collaboratively with the council on different initiatives to help people living or working in Congleton to become more sustainable. The Congleton Green Working Group will be supporting numerous environmental and sustainability initiatives over the year. Every month, the group works to a calendar, the activities to the end of 2023 can be viewed here. The calendar is a working document and will be subject to change.

Actions taken since September 2019

Understanding the baseline footprint of the Town Hall. This was conducted by Dr Barry Speed from the Congleton Sustainability Group based on our purchasing and energy bills using best practice and industry recognised methodology.

Headline Figures are now available for 2018- 2019, 2019- 2020, 2020-2021. The baseline figure for 2018-19 was 231,000kg of CO₂ or 231 tonnes. The Green Working Group of the Town Council believe it should be possible to reduce emissions by 90,000kg which would leave a residue of 131,000kg that would need to be offset.

Main areas that The Town Council can have a direct impact on are:

- Electricity use in the Town Hall
- Gas use in the Town Hall
- Cleaning Chemicals for the Town Hall
- Lease of Vehicles
- Work-related transport costs
- Plant and compost purchasing
- Councillor and Staff Travel
- Paddling Pool running cost
- Town Council plastic use
- Outdoor chemical use
- How we manage our open spaces
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Other policies are being put in place to ensure that our purchasing polices are as green as possible and that we reduce the quantity of paper used.

Publications

The Streetscape Team with the help of the Marketing Team will be working a variety of publications and marketing material to help the public become more green within their own home life and work/ business. Items would include how to compost and reuse old garden materials.

Development of a new action plan

The Action Plan will be delivered and progress will be monitored and overseen by the Streetscape Development Manager and Chief Officer of the Town Council, An Annual Progress Report will be produced and submitted to the Environment Committee. The Action Plan will be a 'live' document that will be updated as projects are developed and new technology and funding streams become available.

1. Green Spaces for Carbon offsetting, Biodiversity and climate resilience

REF	ACTION	DATE	COST	IMPACT	LEAD OFFICER
1.1	Work with 'Friends of Parks' Groups and local volunteers to develop projects that will protect and enhance Congleton parks and green spaces.	Ongoing	Officer time Grant funding	Protection of green spaces for carbon offsetting and climate resilience	Streetscape Development Manager Congleton In Bloom
1.2	Continuation of Operative/volunteer led events in parks and green spaces including environmental awareness raising, and encouragement for walking and cycling to events.	Ongoing	Officer time Within current resources	Reduce carbon emissions from transport	
1.3	Ensure that the existing designated parks and green spaces that are owned by the Council are protected from the risk of future development such as whole scale housing and/or commercial development and where possible necessary improvements/ enhancements to their infrastructure are undertaken e.g. Fields in Trust designations.		TBC	Protection of green spaces for carbon offsetting and climate resilience	Streetscape Development Manager Planning Committee
1.4	Work with the Mersey Forest to develop new woodland planting schemes as part of the 'Trees for Climate' project.		TBC Government funding available	Offset Carbon emissions Provide shade in extreme heat.	Streetscape Development Manager Trees For Congleton
1.5	Complete the delivery of the Congleton Tree Planting Scheme (30,000 trees) supported by funding from grants, CTC and Volunteers.		Grant and Government Funding	Offset Carbon emissions. Provide shade in extreme heat.	Streetscape Development Manager Trees For Congleton
1.6	Undertake a survey of trees within the Town to determine the opportunities available for significant tree planting. And also future trees work or major fails		Officer time Within current resources working with ANSA	To determine scope for tree planting and carbon offsetting	Streetscape Development Manager ANSA
1.7	Investigate feasibility of planting hedgerows in relevant greenspaces near to roads to absorb carbon and reduce air pollution.		Officer time Within current resources Funding will need to be identified for any schemes developed	Offset Carbon emissions	Streetscape Development Manager Trees for Congleton
1.8	Update the Woodland Management Plans for Congleton existing community/public woodland sites.		Officer time Within current resources	Offset Carbon emissions Provide shade in extreme heat.	Streetscape Development Manager ANSA

1.9	Develop projects that alleviate existing surface water problems in green spaces that are likely to intensify in future as a result of climate change, Marshall Grove PA, Worsley Drive OS, Hillfields OS		Officer time Within current resources Funding will need to be identified for any schemes developed	Alleviate surface water flooding likely to be intensified by climate change.	Streetscape Development Manager ANSA
1.10	Lead and facilitate progress on the Site Specific Biodiversity Plan for 30 sites in Congleton				
1.11	Facilitate the Low Mow Town approach to minimise mowing and optimise biodiversity				
2. Reducing carbon emissions from fleet vehicles, maintenance plant and equipment					
2.1	Investigate the feasibility of replacing vehicles with low carbon emissions vehicles alternatives such as electric, hydrogen/diesel or hydrogen, including required infrastructure e.g. charging / refuelling points and renewable sources of electricity.		TBC	Reduced Carbon Emissions	Streetscape Development Manager and Supervisor
2.2	Investigate feasibility of replacing plant and equipment with low carbon alternatives such as electric or hydrogen, including required infrastructure e.g. charging/refuelling points and renewable sources of electricity.		TBC	Reduced Carbon Emissions	Streetscape Development Manager and Supervisor
2.3	Investigate ways to reduce the number and type of vehicles that we utilise e.g moving to smaller vehicles, buggies or cargo bikes.			Reduced Carbon Emissions	
2.4	Continually review ways to optimise work routes and travel to work sites to minimise mileage			Reduced Carbon Emissions	
3. Reducing carbon emissions from waste from Council services					
3.1	Review recycling facilities and practices across the Council and improve facilities where necessary.		Officer time Within current resources	Reduced carbon emissions	Streetscape Development Manager

3.2	Develop a strategy to reduce paper use across the Council.		Officer time Within current resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
3.3	Develop method of calculating amount of waste generated and recycled from Council buildings.		Officer time Within current resources	Improved monitoring of waste production to inform waste reduction strategies	
3.4	Investigate the use of single use plastic across the Council and eliminate its use where possible through awareness raising, supplier engagement and procurement specifications.		Officer time Within current resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
3.5	Develop a Recycling Guide for staff and promote key messages.		Officer time Within current resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
3.6	Investigate recycling approaches for town centre waste collection				
3.7	Investigate adequacy and range of pop up waste recycling facilities in the town				
4. Reducing carbon emissions through communication and staff behaviour change					
4.1	Promotion of key messages through, Tol box talks, Staff meeting and notice boards	Ongoing	Officer time Within existing resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
4.2	Undertake regular staff surveys to identify ideas, issues, solutions	Ongoing	Officer time Within existing resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
4.4	Undertake building audits to identify issues (e.g. control of heating systems, recycling facilities etc.)	31.12.21	Officer time Within existing resources	Reduced carbon emissions	
5. Reducing Carbon by changing horticulture practices					
5.1	Minimise the requirement for new planting by increased use of perennials				
5.2	Use peat free compost and make maximum use of locally produced compost				
5.3	Optimise use of 'home grown' plants				
5.4	Further reduce the requirement for pesticide use where possible				

Version 1 : October 2023 – RMB

Version 2 : Jan 2024- RMB and Cllr Firkin