



Mabe Parish Council Climate Action Plan

This plan was adopted by MabeParish Council on 19th September 2019, but is subject to change as it progresses

Background

Cornwall Council's action plan was adopted on 24 July 2019 and can be seen here.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/40176082/climate-change-action-plan.pdf>

What is the Climate Emergency?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, warns there is only twelve years for global heating to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. There is now scientific consensus on the fact that carbon impacts are causing global heating and the Committee on Climate Change, among many others, warn against the idea of complacency - it is this belief that caused Cornwall Council to act and for many parish and town councils to do the same.

Introduction

Mabe Parish Council unanimously voted to declare a Climate Emergency in February 2019.

They committed to:

1. Declare a 'climate emergency';
2. Pledge to make **Mabe Parish Council** carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)
3. Call on Westminster and Cornwall Council to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the **Mabe Parish Council** to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions **Mabe Parish Council** will take to address this emergency.

This plan has been written in response to item 6.

NB – Cornwall Council will be calculating the baseline Scope 1-3 Carbon Emissions centrally and, by proportion, Mabe Parish can benchmark current carbon output, identify target carbon output and track progress from this data.



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Immediate actions that we can take now

Each and every one of us has a role to play and we will all have to adapt our lifestyles to address this emergency. A lot of the decisions which need to be made will be difficult but doing nothing is simply not an option.

Sign up to the 10 pledges. Encourage those around you to do the same.

10 Climate Pledges

1. I pledge to ring my electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not, I will find one!)
2. I pledge to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible, starting with at least 2 meals a week
3. I pledge to educate myself about the science and impacts of climate change
4. I pledge to contact my MP and my friends to make these pledges too
5. I pledge to walk, cycle, use public transport or register with <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/cornwall> to travel to work or regular journey at least once a week.
6. I pledge to work out my own carbon footprint using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators e.g., <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>
7. I pledge to do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. (<https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk> (If you don't have internet, ask the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012)
8. I pledge to turn my thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.
9. I pledge to reduce my holiday air miles by 50%
10. I pledge to research 'driving in a greener way' by researching online or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-drive ideas.
- 11.

Promote the **10 Climate Pledges**, using existing channels of information, and showing a personal lead (*e.g. interview in local press, article on HTC website, etc.*)

<http://climatevision.co.uk/top-ten-pledges>



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Immediate actions that we can take now

As a parish council we will:

- include sustainability, carbon reduction and ethical sourcing within all parish council decisions, including awarding contracts, grants and determining funding allocation in the future.
- Initiate our Neighbourhood Development Plan to include our strategy for medium to long term climate actions at its core.
- include consideration of carbon emissions and mitigation strategies, sustainability of development and design and green infrastructure needs in all planning decisions
- demand that maximum building energy performance standards possible in all new development proposals (e.g develop a standard paragraph for all development consultation responses – currently Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 equivalent).
- demand that zero carbon standards are adopted in future development via the NDP
- ensure that the maintenance of footpaths & public areas balance the needs of habitat management . This includes cutting less grass and verges – re-wild areas instead. This will reduce the need to mow (reducing carbon emissions and cost) and will help support biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and our struggling insect populations.



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Actions that we will take in the first year

As a parish council we will:

- work with Cornwall Council to measure and manage the carbon footprint of the parish and Parish Council.
- endeavour to provide information and assistance to anyone seeking to reduce their carbon footprint
- Develop our Neighbourhood Development Plan to include our strategy for medium to long term climate actions at its core.
- act as a hub for community projects focussing on the reduction or mitigation of carbon emissions in our parish (supplying small funding if appropriate)
- organise Energy Saving Advice Surgeries for the local community. Community Energy Plus has offered to provide this for free.
- identify, support or develop local clean energy projects
- aim to stop using weedkillers and other chemicals in parks, green spaces, roadsides and pathways. Explore natural methods of weed suppression or allow the weeds to thrive and enjoy them – many are beautiful and important food for wildlife.
- make public areas such as open spaces & play areas more natural, needing less maintenance
- act on behalf of the parish community to lobby for change at both local, national and international level to globally reduce carbon emissions and promote projects that allow this to be done

Examples of specific projects which the climate action group have identified to start the process:

- Plant trees for carbon capture & food
- Use parks and green spaces for **community growing** projects. Research **Incredible Edible Todmorden** and liaise with Incredible Edible Penryn as an example of food planting across the town: <https://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/>
- Facilitate knowledge/sharing ideas and tips for growing food in the community
- Install **bird & insect boxes**. This is an ideal project to involve Mabe School, which already has some boxes
- Campaign for better public transport and safe walking and cycling through our village