

NCC Climate Change Toolkit for Town and Parish Councils

Summary

- The Toolkit provides a general introduction to Climate Change and gives examples of emissions which give rise to CO₂.
- NCC has pledged to cut emissions by 50% by 2025 (from a 2010 baseline) and to achieve net zero by 2030.
- Northumberland produces 1783 kTCO₂ / year (based on 2019 data) and has a savings target of 681 kTCO₂ to achieve net zero. This is because of the large amount of natural sequestration that occurs through woodland and forestry in the County.
- Emissions are divided into a number of categories – Heating, Transport, Electricity, Other, Waste and Sequestration. NB data on emissions from Waste is not currently available.
- NCC are working on an Online Toolkit for Town and Parish Councils which will include sequestration and make bespoke recommendations for action. It is hoped that this will be available in 2022 (SNAC has already offered to be in the first phase roll-out).
- In the meantime, there are a number of tools which provide high level information. These include –
 - the Northumberland Domestic Emissions dashboard for residential dwellings by postcode (essentially estimated heating and lighting use).
 - Impact Tool – this calculates both the territorial and consumption footprints for any Parish in the UK.
- Town and Parish Councils are recommended to use the tools to identify their biggest sources of emissions and to think about what they can do to reduce them.
- NCC also suggest a number of actions for Town and Parish Councils to consider. These are summarised below, together with a proposed response from the Parish Council.

Proposed Actions	Parish Council Response
General	
Declare a Climate Emergency	The PC declared an emergency in November 2021
Create a sub-Committee to oversee the work	The PC has devolved this to Swarland and Newton Action on Climate
Allocate funding and resources	SNAC is able to request funding from the PC when necessary
Put climate change at the heart of a Neighbourhood Plan (if one is produced)	The need for a NP is currently being discussed by the Parish Council
Collaborate with local Climate Action Groups	Three members of the PC and the Clerk are involved with SNAC
Use the PC's power as a consultee on planning matters	The Parish Council should draw up a checklist of climate change issues to use when considering its response to planning applications. This could be linked to any future NP.
Consider creating bulk purchasing groups for renewable energy etc	This could be considered at a future date. The Carbon Footprint survey will give an indication of current heating methods
Use an ethical bank and sustainable suppliers	The Parish Council should review whether its current banking partner can be considered to be ethical.
Promote climate awareness	The Parish Council should publicise its Climate Emergency Declaration and support SNAC in promoting climate awareness
Engage with other stakeholders, e.g. schools, businesses and community groups	The Parish Council should support SNAC to ensure that its membership reflects the local community, businesses and school
Engage with networks, e.g. NCC Climate Change Champions	Members of SNAC are engaging with NCC through a range of initiatives
Heating	
Measure the Parish's CO2 footprint	The Parish Council should encourage community venues to measure their carbon footprints. SNAC is hoping to be an early adopter of a tool to measure the carbon footprint of the parish.
Look at opportunities for energy saving or using renewable energy sources	The PC should recommend that community venues develop plans to reduce their carbon footprints
Develop low carbon heating plans for Council buildings	As above
Transport	
Consider a survey of transport use	SNAC has recently undertaken a survey about the potential demand for a bus service and is engaging with NCC regarding how to take this forward. When the CO2 footprint survey is

	carried out, this will give detailed information about CO2 emissions from transport.
Promote low CO2 travel	Both SNAC and the PC are trying to work with NCC to re-establish a local bus service.
Consider locations for EV charging	SNAC has given some consideration to the installation of EV charging points, but because of the low level of demand for on street charging, this may not be a priority at this time.
Develop lift sharing schemes	This may be considered once further work on restoring a bus service has been done.
Identify safe walking and cycling routes	Following the Footpath Survey carried out by SNAC, promotion of walking routes around the Parish will be carried out. However there remain concerns about a key route between Swarland and Felton via Leamington Lane which is unsafe for pedestrians.
Renewable Energy	
Save energy in Council buildings, e.g. LED lighting	The Parish Council should encourage community buildings to use LED lighting and other energy savings measures
Look at opportunities to generate green electricity	The Parish Council does not currently have any plans to generate green energy.
CO2 Sequestration	Further tree planting will contribute to carbon sequestration opportunities. The Parish Council should support SNAC to identify potential locations within the Parish.
Manage land for nature	
Plant trees	SNAC is actively looking for suitable locations within the Parish for further tree planting
Reduce the use of pesticides	The PC should ensure that the use of pesticides on PC owned land is minimised
Designate sites for trees and nature restoration	As above
Get the community involved	SNAC will involve members of the community in a tree planting exercise in VP later in the year, and at any further events.
Waste	
Recycle or compost where possible	SNAC is creating comprehensive information about local recycling opportunities and will be promoting this within the community
Promote non NCC recycling opportunities	As above
Consider a community composting scheme	This has been considered by SNAC, but is not a current priority