

Hungerford Town Council

Climate Emergency Environmental Policy

Introduction

We are all witnessing and even experiencing the consequences of global heating and we hear the alarms being raised by scientists and environmental bodies about the growing effects of man-made greenhouse gas emissions. The Town Council has already taken positive steps to play our part in reducing the emissions we can affect. As a consultee on planning applications the Town Council has been persistent in arguing for improved energy efficient design of new buildings and on travel and transport it has secured actions to improve pedestrian routes and their safety and provide electric vehicle charging points. Regarding its own estate, the Council has converted its rental house and the Hungerford Hub building to low-carbon heating energy and plans to incorporate much improved insulation in its Croft Field Centre building during its renovations.

To date the Town Council has not had any explicit policies to underpin the environmental initiatives. The following policy outline is intended as a framework for further action on this crucial topic.

Hungerford Town Council Declaration

Hungerford Town Council acknowledges the climate and environmental emergency facing our planet and its obligation to contribute to the urgent global imperative of reducing and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

HTC's role

The Council has resolved that the scope of its Environmental Policy includes -

1. The council's operational activities in its own administration, the buildings and facilities for which it has responsibility, the events it organises and the transport it uses.
2. The Council's acquisitions of goods and its contractual arrangements with suppliers of services which are necessary to carry out the Council's responsibilities.
3. Influencing the policies and plans of West Berkshire Council to enable emission-reduction actions by the Hungerford community
4. Encouraging households, businesses, and other organisations within Hungerford Parish to reduce and eliminate the greenhouse gas emissions which they cause directly or indirectly.

HTC Policy elements

1. The Council's operational activities

- a. **Energy** – reducing consumption and using lower carbon energy sources for our buildings and facilities.
- b. **Waste** – using products and materials efficiently (e.g. paper) and specifying low environmental impact in their sourcing, production, use and disposal. Ensuring all recyclable waste is correctly handled.
- c. **Travel** – using sustainable transport options or video conferencing for meetings whenever possible

2. The Council's contractors and suppliers

- a. **Supplier environmental credentials** – include the requirement for significant suppliers and long-term contractors (contracts of £5,000 or more) to declare their environmental credentials and their commitment to emissions reductions as part of the procurement process. Include this aspect as part of the supplier selection criteria.

3. West Berkshire Council's Policies and plans

- a. **Buildings** – engage to influence and encourage WBC's planning policies and individual planning application decisions to achieve low energy consumption and reduced emissions from new and extended buildings in the parish.
- b. **Travel** – formulate and promote improvements to the travel and transport options in and around Hungerford with WBC. Encourage low and zero emissions approaches where possible. Facilitate increased safe active travel (pedestrian and cycle) routes.
- c. **Waste** – Work with WBC to ensure appropriate and convenient waste recycling facilities exist in Hungerford for local use.

4. Hungerford Parish households, businesses and organisations

- a. **Grow awareness** – Identify and capitalise on opportunities for promoting environment-friendly actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to households, companies and other organisations by collaborating with relevant local, regional and national bodies.
- b. **Encourage action** – on the local take up of low carbon and renewable energy technologies in the town
- c. **Local skills** – Encourage tradespeople and services business in the local area to become skilled to provide emissions-reducing offerings (such as home insulation, electric vehicle charge point installation, solar panels and low carbon energy heating systems)