



# Climate Change Policy Statement

## Our vision to tackle climate change

Tackling climate change is at the heart of our Council Plan to balance our environmental and local economic aspirations. In December 2021 the Council joined other organisations throughout the country and declared a climate emergency in recognition of the global challenges faced by Climate Change and to reinforce our commitment to making Hambleton carbon neutral by 2034.

Our vision for Hambleton is a place that:

- Recognises, prepares and adapts to the socio-economic, environmental and demographic changes that the future will bring;
- Protects and enhances our rich natural and historic environment;
- Uses natural resources wisely;
- Meets local needs and priorities, secures maximum benefit to our local communities and enables the local economy to prosper

Our climate change commitments to mitigate and address the causes, impacts and consequences of climate change are to:

- Reduce our own carbon footprint, including emissions from our buildings, services and operations;
- Reduce energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change;
- Reduce consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste and promoting a less wasteful economy;
- Promote cycling, walking and the use of staff and public transport to reduce emissions from transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change;
- Encourage and support our communities, residents and businesses to reduce their own carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions and influence sustainable new development.
- Find ways of off-setting our residual carbon footprint in order to achieve our aim of carbon neutrality.

To find out how we're tackling climate change and learn more about the actions that we are taking to deliver our vision, you can read our climate change strategy.

Key aims of the strategy are to help develop a collective council response, and to harness all existing activity and strategies, to adapt our services and their delivery to respond to changes in the climate and to promote sustainable practices.

Our Climate Change Strategy brings together council policies and specific key actions to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to ensure a sustainable future for our district.