

**HAMBLETON**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

2021 – 2034

a place to

*grow*





## Foreword

Hambleton District Council's Climate Change Strategy looks at how the authority can work towards achieving our target of net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2034 .

We have seen first-hand how increased rainfall and flash flooding can have a catastrophic effect on householders and transport infrastructure. Climate Change is predicted to dramatically increase the occurrence of these weather extremes including hotter summers and rising sea levels, leading to habitat loss, changes to agriculture, impacting wildlife diversity and health. Unless we act now to curb our greenhouse gas emissions, we recognise that the damage caused to future generations will be irreversible.

The Council along with Hambleton businesses and residents have an important part to play if nationally we are to achieve the UK targets of net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2050.

We have produced this report at a pivotal point in time, 2020 has given us a greater appreciation of our need to support each other, to appreciate our environment and to recognise our fragility within that environment. We need to harness some of our achievements during the Covid 19 crisis such as home working, reduced traffic on our roads, greater use of cycle ways, increased recycling and reuse. All of which will have reduced our CO<sup>2</sup> usage and needs to be embraced and developed moving forward.

## Background

In 2018 the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) produced a report detailing how global temperatures are likely to rise by 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.

The world has already started to see the impact of Global Warming on the environment but once temperature increases above the 1.5°C level most land and ocean regions will be adversely affected, sea levels will rise, there will be increased droughts, and extreme weather conditions. These changes will have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and ecosystems leading to species loss and extinction. These climate changes will also risk human life, food and water supplies, economic growth and livelihoods.

The IPCC report details that by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C we will be in a better position to manage and adapt to the effects we are already experiencing. This can only be achieved by halting net CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2050.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) is a statutory body set up under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the government, they have produced strategic recommendations on how to achieve the targets set by the IPCC and in June 2019 the UK became the first major economy to legislate for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emission means some emissions can be produced providing they are offset by processes that reduce the equivalent amount of CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere, such as tree planting, effective land management, biomass energy with carbon capture and storage. Much of this technology is still in the developmental stage.



## Hambleton's Commitment

HDC's Council Plan 2019-23 establishes four key priorities: Driving Economic Vitality; Enhancing Health and Wellbeing; Caring for the Environment, and Providing a Special Place to Live, intrinsic to every aspect of this plan is the need to act on our contribution to climate change.

The Local Plan which is currently at the examination stage includes the long-term vision, objectives and strategic policies that reflect the Council's corporate ambitions. The policies within the Local Plan aim to safeguard the resources of the district and establish a framework for managing environmental challenges. In doing so, they seek to ensure that Hambleton's communities and the wider environment will not be exposed to unacceptable risks from hazards such as flooding and pollution and that the potential impacts of climate change are addressed.

This Climate Change Strategy aims to outline in greater detail how we plan to achieve the target set out in our Climate Change Policy of achieving net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2034. We have set this ambitious target of 2034 to align ourselves with York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to help support their ambition to be the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

The Council is committed to playing a leadership role in local efforts to address climate change and recognise that to successfully achieve net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emission by 2030 will require cross sector partnerships between Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, local businesses, and voluntary groups.

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.

The IPPC report emphasises the need to act now in order to achieve the ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions. HDC will need to ensure that every decision taken addresses the following 4 questions:-

- 1. How this impacts our own CO<sup>2</sup> emissions?**
- 2. How will our contractors/supplier's CO<sup>2</sup> emissions be impacted?**
- 3. How will this impact the districts CO<sup>2</sup> emissions?**
- 4. How will these emissions be mitigated?**

This does not mean that we focus on putting our own house in order before influencing our contractors or supporting our communities. When Council policies are reviewed, specific consideration needs to be given to how the policy and related decisions and actions affect the contribution to climate change. When awarding contracts weighting must be given to the environmental accreditation of the supplier. Climate change must be a golden thread running through every Council decision and to this end all committee reports should include an Environmental Impact Statement

This needs to be viewed in conjunction with current standards so for example Building Regulations and the Local Development Framework.



## Financial Implications

This strategy in itself has no financial implications however the cost of implementing CO<sup>2</sup> reduction projects will need to be costed as they occur. A lot is already being done in the Council, particularly Environmental Health to access external funding, both public and private funding is likely to increase in the future as the Government develops it's infrastructure to achieve the national target.

## Measuring and Monitoring

This Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan, and Achievements to date (appendix A). Our progress will be measured and monitored annually, and a full evaluation will be undertaken in 2025.

## Action Plan

Our Climate Change Policy details six commitments we have made to mitigate and address the causes, impacts and consequences of climate change:

- 1. Reduce our own carbon footprint, including emissions from our buildings, services and operations.**
- 2. Reduce energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change;**
- 3. Reduce consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste and promoting a less wasteful economy;**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. Encourage and support our communities, residents and businesses to reduce their own carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions and influence sustainable new development.**
- 6. Find ways of offsetting our residual carbon footprint in order to achieve our aim of carbon neutrality.**





We will meet these commitments through the following actions:-

## Estates

The UK Green Building Council estimate that the built environment contributes to 40% of the UK's total carbon footprint. Focussing on our estate will be key to meeting our target. We own a wide range of properties from leisure centres and offices to depots and commercial rental properties. These properties have varying use and energy demands.

By reducing energy and water usage, minimising waste through our operations, using renewable energy and energy efficient technology and practices, we will see improved efficiency, reduced operating costs and reduced environmental impact.

## Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
E1	Promoting and supporting Housing Energy Efficiency schemes and seeking opportunities to address fuel poverty through sustainable and efficient means.	EH
E2	Identify the Council's wider current carbon footprint	ALL
E3	Calculate Council's current Carbon Footprint	DM
E4	Green Energy Purchase – electricity purchased is matched by purchases of renewable energy.	DM
E5	Investigate training opportunities for staff and members to become Carbon Literate therefore increasing awareness of where changes can be made	ENV
E6	Continue with public lighting replacement with LED 2019/20 200,000Kwh target	DM
E7	Consider ways to reduce water consumption	DM
E8	Through LFFN Fibre Broadband project, remove physical Servers in depot, cutting costs in power, maintenance, space etc.	ICT
E9	Installation of air source heat pumps to replace boilers	Leisure
E10	Assess feasibility of solar power systems	Leisure
E11	Upgrade of building management systems, including digitisation	Leisure
E12	Replacing existing lighting with LED lighting	Leisure
E13	Provide battery energy storage	Leisure
E14	Installation of smart metering systems	Leisure
E15	Depot Review – to review Energy use and Climate impact.	WASS



## Transport

Emissions arise from staff using their own cars for business, commuting to and from work. The services we provide which use vehicles such as waste collection, environmental health, planning etc. We also have to consider the services we offer that require residents to travel in their cars for meetings, accessing services etc. By reducing the need to travel and reducing carbon emitting fuel consumption the efficient management of every aspect of transport can contribute significantly towards our overall carbon reduction target.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
T1	Increased self-service - Reduces travel demands on customers	ALL
T2	Demographics of staff - Utilise locally based staff to reduce travel	ALL
T3	Working from home - Reduced travel	ALL
T4	Green Travel Plans - Encourages customers to think about alternative travel options	Leisure
T5	Air quality of licensed vehicles - Proposed changes relating to review of taxi age limit will encourage reduce emissions	Licensing/ EH
T6	Investigate infrastructure and incentives to enable taxi companies to switch to hybrid or full electric alternatives	Licensing/ EH
T7	Officer group visits - Reduced miles travelled	ALL
T8	On-line meetings – Reduced Transport	ALL
T9	Remote working – as well as reduced transportation also allows us to attract skills from people living outside of our area.	ALL

## Community Partnerships

We are ideally placed to influence change in our district through information, advice and awareness.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
CP1	Exploring a range of ways in which local communities, including streets and neighbourhoods, can be encouraged to take some responsibility in supporting, improving and maintaining their local environment.	Communities
CP2	We will continue to support and engage with local community groups that address climate change in their engagement and awareness raising events.	Communities/ WASS
CP3	We will identify and act on opportunities to work together on joint carbon reduction projects	Various



## Procurement

We must ensure that when we are purchasing goods, services and contracts that we not only identify value for money but also look at the whole life cost from an environmental viewpoint. We must take into consideration transportation, disposal, use of resources and sustainability.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
P1	Work with our suppliers and contractors to minimise the environmental impact of their products and services across our sites. Work with and where possible require our suppliers and contractors to reduce the impact of goods and services by considering whole life costs.	ALL
P2	Purchase recycled paper - 53% less CO <sup>2</sup> to produce compared to virgin fibre.	Repro
P3	Seek out ISO14001/ EMAS companies where appropriate these are the most credible and robust environmental management certifications an organisation can achieve.	ALL
P4	Include sustainability as a criteria for awarding contracts, if applicable. For example, the longevity of a product, the recyclability or necessity for consumables.	ALL

## Planning

The planning process can make a major contribution to achieving our target by shaping new and existing developments in ways that reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. Energy efficient homes and businesses, sustainable drainage schemes, green infrastructure, sustainable travel infrastructure, are some of the outcomes that the planning process can bring to our communities. The planning process can give local communities opportunities to take action on climate change by encouraging community-based development and active participation in plan making.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
B1	Northallerton Sports Village – Community Allotments, native tree planting	Communities
B2	On-going energy efficiency projects to install measures in homes in the district such as new gas central heating systems, ground source heat pumps and cavity wall insulation etc.	EH
B3	Looking at viable opportunities for solar energy/renewable energy	Commercial



## Waste Management

Our Waste Management Strategy is designed to optimise environmental performance and deliver value for money for Hambleton residents. It is key to the sustainable management of household waste within Hambleton and we have an important part to play not just in the way we handle the waste we collect but also the message we provide to our residents.

Defra’s Resource and Waste Strategy for England which is currently at the consultation stage will introduce key changes to the waste management sector with proposed national consistency in collections including food waste, deposit return schemes and greater producer responsibility for packaging waste. This will impact on what we are able to collect from our residents and also the funding available for collections.

## Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
W1	Promote the principles of the Waste Hierarchy both to residents and in-house	WASS
W2	Ensuring our contracts enable householder to recycle as much as feasible	WASS
W3	Maximising participation of recycling and waste reduction through education and awareness	WASS
W4	Increased participation in Garden Waste composting through affordable service	WASS
W5	Free of charge advice and education to Schools and Community Groups	WASS
W6	Involvement with national campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste and WRAP	WASS
W7	In-house - Segregation of waste for recycling, mixed recycling, printer cartridges, crisp packets etc	ALL
W8	Print Reduction - Less paper used, less waste.	ALL
W9	The move to emails and online services for elections, taxi driver newsletters, green waste licences. Committee agenda/reports etc Reduces the demand for paper and postal services	ALL
W10	Re-use of items such as folders, cardboard boxes, toner bottles, polling booths etc	ALL
W11	Electric bin lifts fitted to RCv fleet for reduced fuel consumption	WASS



# Appendix A



The following table details initiatives that have already been implemented/ completed.

Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
EH	Warm Homes Funding – First time gas central heating systems	Ongoing		A joint project between Ryedale, Scarborough, Richmondshire and Hambleton using funding of £516,638 obtained from the National Grid’s Warm Homes Fund to install first time gas central heating systems into homes and main gas connection where needed. Will result in carbon reductions compared to a mix of electrical and storage heaters currently used.
EH	LAD 2 Funding	2020	-	£583K funding to improve whole house energy efficiencies for eligible homes including wall, loft and underfloor insulation, low carbon
EH	Warm Homes Funding Air source heat pumps.	Ongoing		A joint project between Ryedale, Scarborough, Richmondshire and Hambleton using funding of £777,000 obtained from the National Grid’s Warm Homes Fund to install air sourced heat pumps to eligible homes.
EH	Warm up Hambleton	Ongoing		Joint initiative between HDC and J & J Crump & Son Ltd to help householders make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat.
Leisure	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	TBC	-	An application has been submitted for £4.7m funding for carbon reduction schemes across our leisure centres. If successful this will support air source heat pumps, solar panels, upgraded BMS, new lighting, smart metering.
HR	Working from Home Policy	TBC	-	Great flexibility to allow for working from home, thereby reducing travel to work fuel consumption for staff. <i>Awaiting approval at the staff consultative forum at time of writing.</i>
ICT	Installing SSD into used Desktops	May 18	Oct 18	During Windows 10 rollout project HDD from desktops have been swapped with SSD’s. This utilises old equipment and saves costs with purchasing new hardware.

Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
ICT	Replace HP laptops with Dell Vostro laptops	May 18	Oct 18	Throughout the Windows 10 rollout project we have been replacing laptops with new Dell Vostro units that save on power and requires less materials 320tCO <sup>2</sup> e
DM	Public lighting - Part-night lighting scheme 2014/15 - Reduction in the hours of illumination of the public lighting, switch off 12.00am - 5.00am	Apr-14	Mar-15	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-16	Mar-17	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 126,534Kwh
DM	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-17	Mar-18	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 21,337 Kwh
	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 160,516Kwh
DM	Bedale Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Bedale Leisure centre - Pool Hall - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Northallerton Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Northallerton Leisure Centre - Pool Hall - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption

Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
DM	Stokesley Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Civic Centre - Council Chamber - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Facilities - Energy audit of electricity and gas usage	Apr-19	Mar-20	Assessment of how energy is consumed by facilities
WASS	Electric Fleet	2020	2020	4 fully electric vehicles to replace diesel
WASS	Electric bin lifts fitted to RCv fleet			Reduced fuel consumption
WASS & DM	Electric Pool Cars	2020	2020	Reduction in emissions
WASS & DM	Electric Charging Points	2020	2020	
WASS	Route Optimisation	2017	2017	Most economically therefore energy efficient route
WASS	In-cab system in WASS Fleet	2020	2020	Reduced fuel consumption and resources required for collection
Communities	Sowerby Sports Village		2020	18 community allotments created; 259 native trees planted; 10,000 native hedgerows planted; 3.58 hectares of habitat supported
CSC	FoodShare local charity support		Ongoing	Collection point for customers and staff donations
Corporate Services	Tusker Car staff Scheme	2021	Ongoing	Tax incentive for purchasing an electric vehicle
Corporate Services	Cycle to work scheme	2017	Ongoing	Salary sacrifice scheme with tax incentives to pay for a bike for work use
Planning	Crematorium	2020	2021	Native Tree Planting, Environmental Screening report to address and potential environmental impact at the planning stage





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Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Rotary Way, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 2UU  
01609 779977

[hambleton.gov.uk](http://hambleton.gov.uk)



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