

Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee – Actions from 20 February 2023

Climate action plan

To be developed via stand-alone zoom meetings, delegated to officers in conjunction with the Committee. The 2019 Carbon Assessment should be reviewed for data. It was discussed at the Earth Protector Town zoom meeting on 6 February to have the Climate Action Plan and sub-headings as standing items and to set monthly goals.

As an example, Peterborough have a Climate Action Plan for both Community Strategies and Corporate Strategies. Community Strategies are categorised into: Homes, Workplaces & Schools, Mobility, Food, Land-use and People.

Corporate Strategies are categorised into: buildings, fleet, water & sewage, street lighting and solid waste.

Sub-headings for the agenda (as standing items)

The following sub-headings were suggested at previous meetings: natural environment and ecology, waste management, energy, transport (carbon neutrality), communications (education/raise awareness/public participation/engage businesses), health and wellbeing, homes (sustainable living), recycle/reuse.

Actions taken by other Town Councils

- Stroud has a sub group/working group to coordinate funding applications (at the zoom meeting on 6 February it was discussed to have working groups set up to provide information to the Committee).
- Peterborough set up the Green Economy Peterborough network group that helps company members identify, set and achieve sustainability goals.
- Southend-On-Sea have several projects, one being 'Cool Towns', a European funded programme (by Interreg 2 Seas) to help local councils in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands in delivering town greening projects.
- For their open spaces, Stroud Town Council partnered with Blue Campaign, where recycled blue hearts are placed in areas where they have reduced or stopped regular mowing to allow natural biodiversity to flourish. The Blue Campaign (<https://bluecampaignhub.com/councils>) website states the requirement is to 'allow a patch of land to grow and see what plants and creatures return' with only one annual cut-and-collect followed by little to no maintenance. They recommend erecting blue hearts on wooden posts to alert members of the public to the project. The hearts can be made from recycled materials or bought from their online shop. They have a guide on maintaining waysides and verges. (This could link to the Town Council's Wild Flower Meadows Policy)