



Climate Change Action Plan

Release 2 March 2023

INTRODUCTION

In September 2021 Box Parish Council adopted its first Climate Change Action Plan in response to the world Climate and Ecological Emergency, and continues its commitment to become net-zero by 2030, and to work with and support Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy, responding to consultations and other engagement opportunities.

Box PC undertakes to reduce the impact of climate change on our community through improving biodiversity, reducing emissions, supporting a greener economy, and to influence and facilitate projects that will lower our carbon footprint and protect our environment.

Where applicable, the 'Climate Policy' is to stand paramount above all other policies (with the exception of Health & Safety), and all other policies and motions of the Council must comply with it.

CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL

In 2021 Box PC set up a Climate Strategy Working Group in order to lead action on climate change.

However, all Councillors have a role to play in offering vision and direction, and encouraging residents and businesses to prioritise sustainability and carbon reduction.

The internationally recognised standard PAS 2060 defines carbon neutrality as: "...a condition in which during a specified period there has been no net increase in the global emission of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as a result of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the subject during the same period."

Our goal is to Ensure that climate and ecological considerations are at the centre of decisions.

To achieve this Box PC will:

1. Carry out a baseline carbon audit across all PC owned buildings, vehicles and equipment, and put in place an action plan for reducing our carbon footprint.
2. Regularly set and review Climate Strategy targets across all Committees in the Forward Plans
3. Actively engage with residents, businesses and stakeholders in realising the benefits of adapting and responding to the challenges of climate change and in the creation of a low carbon and climate-resilient community.
4. Identify environmental projects, work with local councils and groups, and utilise available Grants to assist in funding (e.g. Box Hill Common Conservation Management Plan)



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TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

1. Support and influence policies and initiatives that will reduce private car use, and enhance public transport networks and cycling opportunities.
2. Encourage car share and reduced travel by Councillors
3. Continue to support Community Speed Watch
4. Continue to liaise with Wiltshire Council and EV charging providers with the aim increasing access to EV provision as soon as is viable.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Review planning applications to encourage Climate Change Mitigation, use of sustainable materials, low and renewable energy consumption.

1. Minimum EPC rating EPC C or above on all new builds
Solar PV arrays on all new builds
Heat Pumps on all new builds.
2. Each New Build to be provided with domestic EV Charging Point as standard. Power infrastructure to be designed accordingly

Work with Box Neighbourhood Development Plan to develop policies for new builds and retrofits.

ENERGY STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

1. Continue to seek further solutions for increased green energy generation and storage on PC buildings and land, and support projects by other organisations within the parish.
2. Continue to reduce energy usage.

GREEN & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Maintain a robust procurement policy promoting the use of sustainable suppliers and products.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, LAND USE & FARMING

Create, enhance and protect wildlife habitats., by for example, creation of wildflower meadow areas and construction of Living Hedges, that will create wildlife corridors connecting wildlife habitats within the Parish.

1. Create & implement Biodiversity Action Plans for all Council-owned land.
2. Where possible, follow the principles of the ARK project: [PUBLIC SPACES | We Are The Ark](#)
3. Where ARK principles are less appropriate, promote 'Bee-friendly' biodiversity schemes, such as suggested by [Community Projects – Bee Friendly Trust](#)
4. Deliver local nature-based offsetting projects by the council, such as the continuation of tree planting initiatives in association with the Cotswold Voluntary wardens.
5. Research, propose and implement a Dark Skies policy.
6. Improve recycling provision, and reduce waste.
7. Continue to support litter picking schemes



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HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Provision and maintenance of Play Parks, tennis courts, bowls green and other community facilities

Continue to give consideration to applications for financial support from local groups

Continue to maintain footpaths with parish

Policies

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/9878/Climate-Strategy-Delivery-Plan-for-Wiltshire-September-2022/pdf/Climate-Strategy-Delivery-Plan-County_Sept22.pdf?m=637989410246970000

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/9879/Carbon-Neutral-Council-Plan-September-2022/pdf/CarbonNeutralCouncilPlan-Sept22.pdf?m=637989406340430000>

Sources of reference

<https://www.cse.org.uk/>

<https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/>

https://issuu.com/wiltswildlife/docs/wwt_strategy_to_2030_web