



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change and Nature Recovery Policy

INTRODUCTION

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to minimising damaging environmental impacts of its operations whilst maximising opportunities for nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2019, Full Council declared a Climate Emergency with a pledge to make the Council carbon neutral by 2030.

In all activities, Shrewsbury Town Council will seek innovative ways to improve our environmental footprint by setting objectives to mitigate against environmental damage and greenhouse gas emissions, and to enhance nature recovery, carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation in the town. Each major project will require completion of a checklist to ensure that this policy is taken into consideration in our decision making (Appendix A).

To achieve these objectives we have developed a series of policy statements and have produced an Climate Change Action Plan. The action plan is based on continuous environmental improvement via the establishing of demanding and measurable environmental performance targets, specifically relating to Waste, Energy/Water, Procurement, Transport/Travel and Biodiversity.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Climate Change Standing Committee. This Committee demonstrates the Town Council's seriousness in tackling this global issue at a local level. The Committee differs from other standing committees in that it has external representatives including those from lobbying groups such Friends of the Earth and Xtinction Rebellion, specialists in Transport Planning and Biodiversity, organisations with key environmental responsibilities such as the Environment Agency and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and representatives from the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership who are charged with developing an Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the county as a whole.

Shrewsbury Town Council's Climate Change Policy is supported by series of policies in the following areas:

1. General Environmental Management
2. Waste Management
3. Energy/Water Management
4. Sustainable Procurement
5. Transport/Travel
6. Natural Environment

1. General Environmental Management Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council is responsible for delivering numerous services across the town including supporting local communities and initiatives, providing good quality play and recreation areas for all, maintaining green spaces throughout the town, providing activities and facilities for young people and generally promoting the town as a great place to live, work and visit. The very nature of delivering these services has an effect on the local environment.

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to improving the environmental impact of its activities on the local environment by proactive environmental management across its land and property portfolio.

Scope and Objectives

The Town Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the Town by:

- Minimising any adverse environmental impacts resulting from our own activities;
- Encouraging others in the community to do likewise through their activities.

Shrewsbury Town Council will commit to the following:

- Keep its own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met
- Raise awareness amongst staff of the Town Council's Climate Change Policy and objectives;
- Provide information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.

2. Waste Management Policy

The Town Council's policy is to establish systems to ensure compliance with the law and ensure that options to minimise both waste production and disposal are fully evaluated.

The Waste Management Policy sets out our targets identifying areas for improvement. It is designed to help achieve particular goals with a set of realistic objectives. The Town Council is aware of its responsibilities and obligations and encourages a positive recycling culture amongst its staff and the wider population.

Waste Hierarchy

The main principles of the Town Councils Waste Management Policy are based on the well-established Waste Hierarchy. This has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management practices, setting out the order in which waste management measures should be prioritised based on environmental impact.



Our targets for Waste Management for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- Preventing the production of waste wherever possible.
- Produce and publish baseline data for waste/recycling.
- Ensuring that products are disposed of by appropriate methods when damaged or at the end of their life.
- Produce waste reduction and recycling plan covering all Town Council waste streams to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill.
- Working with partners, to look for opportunities to use 'circular economy' approaches to our use of materials.

3. Energy & Water Management Policy

The Town Council's policy is to manage energy & water consumption in order to:

- Reduce emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases.
- Avoid unnecessary expenditure.
- Support local initiatives in renewable energy production where possible.
- To influence the local water company to reduce sewage in rivers, in particular the River Severn.

The Town Council will improve water and energy efficiency throughout all its premises, plant and equipment, wherever it is cost-effective to do so including in the new Town Council town centre offices. We will also look to adopt or develop onsite or nearby renewable energy sources for our use and for the use of others in the town. The Town Council also recognises a duty to provide all building users with comfortable working conditions, whilst minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are environmental protection and cost reduction. It is recognised that these are not always compatible and that the Town Council may be constrained from certain actions by budgetary constraints.

Recognising those constraints, the Town Council will nonetheless adopt the following objectives:

- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To monitor energy consumption.

Our targets for Energy and Water Management for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- To monitor energy consumption across the Town Council's property portfolio on an annual basis;
- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To continue to raise awareness of energy management issues with all building users;
- To consider electrical generation via the installation of solar panels on suitable Town Council buildings/properties with a payback period consistent with sound investment practice;
- To develop a plan to replace heat from fossil fuels with electrically driven heating, such as the use of heat pumps in our building and facilities.
- To promote water collection & composting on our both sites and those owned by the Town Council but managed by others (ie allotments)
- To respond positively to opportunities for electrical generation and heat energy generation from other renewable sources, such as heat networks or wind energy.
- To identify and implement opportunities for improved water efficiency and target setting e.g. install water saving devices on toilet cisterns and low flow shower heads;
- To incorporate water efficiency measures into all new and refurbished facilities;

- To promote awareness of the responsibility for water conservation to staff, and visitors by water saving tips.

4. Sustainable Procurement Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council recognises and is committed to carrying out its procurement function incorporating the principles of sustainable purchasing. Purchasing decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication both locally and globally, now and for generations to come.

It will achieve this through:

- Assessing activities to determine whether any procurement is necessary.
- Assessment of environmental and corporate risks to the organisation with a commitment to continually improve sustainable performance related to the supply chain;
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation;
- Educating suppliers about the Town Council sustainable objectives, which include preventing pollution, minimising waste, preserving natural resources and promoting resource efficiency by eliminating, reducing, reusing and recycling;
- Working with key suppliers to bring about changes and thereby spread sustainability improvements through the supply chain;
- Allowing budgets to reflect the need for sustainable purchasing.

Our targets for Sustainable Procurement for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- Reduce CO2 emissions arising from the transport of materials – use local where possible;
- Encourage suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental management systems ISO14001 or EMAS;
- Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier's appraisal process;
- Ensure that the environmental credentials of manufacturers and the raw materials they use are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the appraisal process;
- Favour products with recycled content or that are biodegradable being mindful of where in the world the product was produced and where the resources were obtained from to produce the product;
- Train and raise awareness of staff on the Council policy and promoting best practice for sustainable purchasing.
- To establish a social value framework to utilise where appropriate.

5. Transport/Travel Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council recognises its responsibility to minimise the environmental impact of its operations where possible and to seek to improve its performance through implementation of its policy.

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to implementing a Transport Policy as part of the Climate Change Policy to encourage and maintain sustainable commuting and business travel for staff and visitors in order to reduce further the environmental impact of transport related to council activities. The Town Council is also a key partner in increasing active travel throughout the town.

Scope and Objectives

- Reducing commuter journeys to Town Council workplaces by staff and visitors;
- Reducing unnecessary journeys to other locations for business purposes;
- Reducing the usage /impact of Town Council vehicles.

Our targets for Transport/Travel for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- To produce a Travel Plan to establish current modes of transport used by staff to travel to work and to promote sustainable alternatives;
- Encourage staff travelling on Town Council business to use public transport and/or low carbon emission transport;
- Promotion of the use of telephone conferencing and video conferencing to reduce commuter mileage;
- Promotion of home working to reduce business mileage;
- Reducing the usage /impact of Town Council vehicles via investigation/introduction of suitable alternatives such as electric vehicles including bicycles and cargo bikes;
- To promote to staff the benefits of cycling to/at work. Where bicycles are used for Town Council business allow for an individual to claim up to 20p per mile for business usage.
- To provide a Cycle to Work scheme to all staff via Vivup.
- To encourage route planning in advance and good driving practice to reduce fuel consumption.

6. Natural Environment Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council is a major landowner in the Town.

We recognise that we influence and are influenced by the variety of species and habitats that exist within our sites in and around the Town. As a minimum we will ensure compliance with all biodiversity, environmental laws and regulations. We will work with partners to look for opportunities to introduce real biodiversity gain; to exemplify good practice and to help build wildlife corridors together with partners in the community. As a major landowner and a contractor for the unitary authority we will look to make a positive contribution to the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy as now required by the Environment Act.

Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the wildlife and flora that call our sites home. We are committed to continually improving our biodiversity performance at our sites, whilst aiming to deliver our services in the most sustainable way.

We will:

- Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within our landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate;
- Work with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to conduct Habitat surveys of main Town Council sites;
- Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity during our activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat;
- Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness;
- The Town Council has reduced the use of pesticide in light of emerging evidence. It is still used in wildflower areas and also on newly planted trees to reduce competition from grasses and herbs.
- Take measures to mitigate against extreme weather including extreme heat.
- Where possible mitigate against flooding and be as prepared as possible for when flooding does occur, and support initiatives for natural flood management and rewetting appropriate sites which will improve flood resilience, carbon sequestration and nature recovery.
- Reduction of usage of peat based composts, chemicals/pesticides (grounds maintenance and nursery), disposal of chemicals and biological pest control;

7. Air Quality Policy

We recognise that we influence the quality of air in and around the Town. As a minimum we will ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations on our estate. We will work with partners to look for opportunities to improve air quality across the Town.

Scope and Objectives

Although Shrewsbury Town Council is not a major direct contributor to air pollution in the town we make a commitment to influence others such as those responsible for transport, building and development, including Shropshire Council. We are also committed to Town Council projects that benefit the air quality in the town.

We will:

- Work with other key partners to improve access to public transport and promote alternative transport leading to reduced car use; develop safer routes to schools schemes; and implement traffic calming initiatives.
- Promote and deliver sustainable use of energy and resources.
- Through the planning process, support the objective that development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions.
- Undertake specific projects/actions that benefit air quality in the town such as sedum rooves on bus shelters.

Approved by Climate Change Standing Committee	21/07/2022
Adopted by Council	
Review Date	




SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CHECKLIST FOR MAJOR/CAPITAL PROJECTS

Name of the project	
Date of implementation	
Officer	

Before undertaking the project please consider the following:

	Climate Change Objective	Actions taken
1.	<p>General Environmental Management</p> <p>Has consideration been given to Shrewsbury Town Council's Climate Change Policy in relation to this project?</p>	
2.	<p>Waste Management</p> <p>Has consideration been given to the waste management hierarchy below? If so, what measures have been put in place?</p> 	
3.	<p>Energy and Water Management</p> <p>What measures have been identified to reduce consumption, whether direct (scope 1 and 2) or indirect (scope 3) for this project?</p> <p>Are energy supplies for this project being purchased from sustainable sources? Give details.</p>	

	<p>How will energy consumption for this project be monitored?</p> <p>What consideration has been given to renewable energy sources?</p>	
4.	<p>Sustainable Procurement Has the need for procurement in this project been given serious consideration?</p> <p>Has consideration of relevant environmental legislation been considered? Give details of the legislation and actions.</p> <p>Does the budget for this project reflect the need for sustainable purchasing?</p>	
5.	<p>Transport/Travel Has the objective of reducing non active travel been considered in relation to this project? Give details.</p>	
6.	<p>Natural Environment Does this project bring about any biodiversity gain or loss? Provide detail.</p> <p>Has consideration of relevant environmental legislation been considered? Give details of the legislation and actions.</p> <p>How will this project be promoted to the local community?</p>	
7.	<p>Air Quality How does this project contribute to improved air quality in the Town? Give details.</p>	