

STC Climate Action Plan Progress 15 October 2020

Aim 1 Reduce the Council's carbon footprint to net zero by 2030

	Action	By	Progress
1.1	Find out what energy and fuel is currently used in our daily operations. Then calculate baseline carbon footprint.	May 2020	Complete. Carbon Footprint in Sep 2019 is 15,883kg/CO2e (See appendix 1). NB. error in original calculation has now been corrected.
1.2	Switch electricity supplier to renewable energy supplier	January 2020	Complete. In April 2020, the Council switched all contracts to Good Energy. There is now effectively no carbon footprint from the council's electricity use. Re-calculation of the council's carbon footprint in October 2020 now gives a figure of 2,401Kg/CO2e, a reduction of 85% . – see Appendix 1
1.3	Reduce energy use in Town Hall by insulating, reducing drafts etc	April 2021	Various measures were implemented by GCC whilst refurbishing the building and a new Energy Report gave a rating of C(52) which is a great improvement on the previous. Recommendations for further measures to reduce energy have been actioned: fluorescent tube lighting is being replaced by LED lighting as and when replacement tubes are needed, the building's heating controls have been re-set to be more efficient and effective and a survey of what cavity-wall insulation exists and what can be added is being arranged.
1.4	Investigate options for adding pv panels to Pavillion when planning application is approved		Funds have been identified which can be used to "green" the building including cost of PV panels but no news yet on the Council's planning application..

Aim 2 50% of town's electricity to be generated from renewable sources within the town by 2030

The Council will:

Actively support the building of carbon neutral buildings in the town; installation of PV on housing and installation of battery storage

Add to its Project Funding wish List and see funding (<https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/parish-councils> is a possible source): i) adding battery storage to Town Hall pv panels to allow the use of energy generated during the day and night ii) Installation of pv solar panels on youth club and sports pavillion roofs

15 October 2020

Through events, newsletter and on website, social media etc, encourage householders to install renewable energy supplies and insulation to cut their energy use by promoting opportunities such as SWEA Warm & Well grants & Link 2 Energy suppliers' list

Take an active part in Transition Stroud's Climate Action Forum share information about good practice elsewhere from this group.

2.1	Calculate current renewable energy generation in Stonehouse to get baseline data - observation survey	Sep 2019	Estimate in September 2019 is 200,940 kWh . Target is 6,490,200 kwh – See Appendix.
2.2	Move Town Council pv meter display to prominent public position in Town Hall and promote the carbon reductions and cost savings achieved.	April 2021	The Council is in the process of obtaining quotes to move the display outside or to a window in the library where it would be visible to passers-by outside.
2.3	Support rejuvenation of a Council Business Network to promote installation of renewable energy in businesses, particularly solar pv on roofs in Oldends Lane Industrial Estate.	May 2020	The Council's Business Network is on hold but the Climate Action Forum is following up businesses that could potentially be used as case studies to promote what's possible and the cost savings that can be achieved.
2.4	Work with pv solar companies to promote their businesses	Jan 2021	Council agreed it could not endorse any individual company but it held an Information Fair in Feb. 2020 to enable businesses to promote a range of opportunities for the public to take up. A follow-up event, in the form of an online webinar, is being planned for January 2021
2.5	Propose areas for renewable energy generation in next revision of the Neighbourhood Plan	2021	It's not clear yet whether the Town Council will be able to review its Neighbourhood Plan or how the Government's proposed changes to the Planning System will impact on it. In the meantime, and given the lack of available land in Stonehouse, the Forum has decided to focus on encouraging solar pv on roofs of domestic and business properties

Aim 3 Reduce car emissions by encouraging switch to walking cycling and electric vehicles

The Council will

Seek ways to support national campaigns to promote car free streets, car free days, cycle to work summers and incorporate, where possible, into the Council's Annual Events calendar

Work to develop safe walking and cycle routes in partnership with district and county councils.

Bear in mind its commitment to promote cycling and walking as preferred form of transport around the town in all its planning considerations and any future review of car parking charges in the town.

3.1	Offer cycle to work loans (including Electric cycle) for Town Council staff	January 2020	Complete. Staff have been made aware of the national scheme which is available to them.
3.2	Support air pollution campaign campaign against engine idling involving residents and school parents	January 2021	We are investigating how to get some baseline Air Quality measurements at key hotspots around the town including in Elm Road at "school run" time.
3.3	Develop safe walking and cycle routes in partnership with district and county councils.	ongoing	<p>The Council is working with Great Oldbury developers to ensure the best solution for the proposed route for footpath along Oldends Lane.</p> <p>The Council is supporting Standish PC's work to see the addition of the missing piece of footpath between Horesmarling Lane and Oxlynch and a strategic cycle track as far as the M5 junction to encourage more people to be able to cycle to Gloucester and thus boost employment in the City.</p> <p>The Council will recommend the widening of the footpath from the Park Schools down to Stonehouse Court Hotel as part of any development of Wycliffe land.</p>
3.4	Install sufficient safe secure cycle parking	April 2021	An audit has been carried out of existing cycle parking in the town and a list drawn up of desired additional sites at all key destinations in the town. Priority is for covered parking or cycle lockers at the station as this will be used for long-term parking by commuters. The Council is working with partners to take this forward.
3.5	Replace council owned vehicle with suitable electric models when existing petrol, and diesel vehicles come to the end of usable life and consider making EV charging points available to the public when not required by council vehicles	Dec 2021	An EV charging point has now been installed at the Town Hall as part of the premises refurbishment.
3.6	Engage the community in coming up with solutions for reducing car use so that they're more likely to be successful	April 2021	The Council carried out an online Consultation using the Common Place Platform https://stonehouseactivetravel.commonplace.is , to gather suggestions for how to make cycling and walking safer in Stonehouse. There was good engagement from a wide cross section of the public with numerous suggestions of roads and paths that could be improved and with responses showing that a majority of people plan to use their cars less in the coming year and would

			support permanent measures to make walking and cycling safer in the town. The responses have been shared with relevant County Council officers and our County Councillor and council staff are looking at what actions they can take immediately to clear overgrown walkways to make them safer.
3.7	Encourage more use of local shops as alternative to driving further afield or getting orders delivered to home	April 2021	<p>A directory of businesses supplying local produce is being developed and will be shared on community websites and via social media.</p> <p>Posters are displayed on the Town Councils' noticeboard to encourage local shopping and this message is frequently shared on the Council's social media. Although Goodwill Evening will not be possible in its usual format, the Council is planning a different kind of event to encourage local shopping at Christmas.</p>

Aim 4 Reduce energy demand in the town

The Council will			
Use its regular events to promote a zero carbon town and the reduction of single use plastic including Goodwill Evening and Stonehouse in Bloom			
Seek opportunities to actively promote low carbon/methane/nitrogen oxide emission food consumption (vegetarian, vegan, extensive pasture grazed animals) through the creation of a farmers' market and/or other ways			
Where possible within Regulations, state Council's desire that all new buildings be low carbon development and that any new building developed by the Council or on council land be carbon neutral.			

4.1	Hold annual event to share good practice with other groups that own properties in the town eg churches, schools, scouts, community centre etc	June 2021	<p>A successful first launch event was held on Oct 20th when trees were planted at Oldends Lane Playing Fields.</p> <p>Plans for a follow-up event at the Annual Town Meeting have been postponed due to COVID-19 and will be considered again later in the year.</p>
4.2	Encourage low carbon/methane/nitrogen oxide emission food consumption (vegetarian, vegan, extensive pasture grazed animals) through the creation of a farmers' market and/or other ways .		The council is keen to talk to anyone who'd like to bring a fruit and veg market stall to the town which would not only increase access to produce locally but reduce the use of packaging and plastic.
4.2	Share good practice, sources of grant funding, advice and		The council is actively promoting the Government's Green Homes Grants. This

	information about how residents can reduce energy use in their homes.		programme opens in October and runs till March 2021 and offered £5k (up to 2/3 cost) of energy saving installations – with up to £10k on offer to households on a low income.
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Aim 5 Reduce the amount of waste generated in the town and increase low carbon means of dealing with waste

The Council will

Support any groups or individuals who could set up a Terracycle Scheme for hard- to-recycle material not typically collected by District Council schemes See <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>

5.1	Minimise waste generation and maximize recycling from the Council's own buildings and operations	Jan 2021	Work on a Council Environmental Sustainability Policy will proceed when capacity allows.
5.2	Encourage reduction in waste from food packaging by working with local businesses.	ongoing	We have written to the Co-op to ask them how they plan to reduce the amount of packaging in their shop and await a reply.

Aim 6 Increase Carbon Capture through tree planting and land management

6.1	Reduce the frequency of cutting of grasses areas to minimise carbon emissions and maximise potential for wildflower and pollinators	April 2020	In Feb the Council reduced the grass-cutting contract to increase biodiversity around edges of grass in the parks and recreation areas by leaving the grass to grow longer. This will be reviewed in December and further reduction of grass cutting will be planned for next year if all is going well.
6.2	Encourage the development of woodland either by tree planting or the re-wilding of council owned land.	Dec 2020	The Council has agreed to produce a tree management plan for Doverow Hill and then also for the whole town.
6.3	Encourage pollinators by becoming a "Bee Friendly Town"	July 2021	The Town Council is supporting Stonehouse in Bloom to take this forward.
6.4	Encourage residents and landowners to support bio-diversity in their gardens through information sharing and education	ongoing	A Biodiversity page - for sharing weblinks to relevant information and tips – has been created on the Council website. The idea of an annual Edible Gardens Day is on hold pending finding volunteers who want to take this project forward.
6.5	Reduce use of harmful pesticides in the Town	April 2021	The council doesn't use any harmful pesticides in managing its land and this commitment will be included in the Land Management Policy to be drafted,

Appendix 1 Town Council Carbon Footprint

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/tools/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

Baseline Data Sep 23rd 2019

Energy consumption

- We currently have 3 different electricity contracts for town hall, youth centre and Oldends pavilion. These finish at end of Dec 2019, Jan 2020 and March 2020. We have to give notice at least a month before each one to exit. Total annual electricity usage (Sep 23 2018 – Sep 22 2019) was **41,308.06Kwh**
- We also have gas at the Town Hall. Cost is 5.018p per KWh. Cost over one year (april '18 – March '19) was £721.18 = **14,424Kwh**
- In 2018-19 we spent £772.08 on fuel for the van and mower. diesel cost if £1.32/litre so this equates to **584.91 litres of fuel.**

Carbon footprint of the Town Council is therefore



Update – Town Council Carbon Footprint October 2020

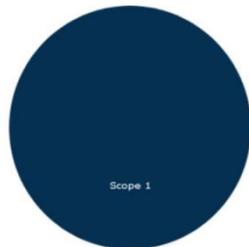
Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from fuel and processes.

Scope 2 emissions are from purchased electricity for the assets they operate (excluding those from renewable sources)

1. Assuming we use the same amount of fuel for van and mower as previous year. In 2018-19 we spent £772.08 on fuel for the van and mower. Diesel cost if £1.32/litre so this this equates to **584.91 litres of fuel**.
2. We have gas at the Town Hall. Good Energy supply about 6% gas from renewable sources but the rest is a carbon offset programme so doesn't count as renewable for the calculator. So the gas use is included in the **Scope 1** emissions.
3. The actual annual amount of gas use is not known yet as the property has been refurbished to include the library within it. The cost of gas for the council has been agreed as one third of the total bill and the other two thirds to the County council. Cost unknown, but based on 1/3rd of previous usage this comes to **4808kWh** nb. was an error in the calculation of kWhs previously which has now been corrected)
4. We currently use electricity at 3 different sites : the Town Hall, youth centre and Oldends pavilion. The electricity contracts for these have been switched to Good Energy, a 100% renewable electricity supplier. As this is certified 100% renewable the kgCO_{2e} is taken as **zero** for the footprint calculator therefore there are **no Scope 2** emissions attributed to the council for electricity usage.

Using <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/tools/carbon-footprint-calculator/> the new carbon footprint of the Town Council from the Carbon Trust website is therefore

2,401 kg CO_{2e} Scope 1: 100% Scope 2: 0%



This is a total reduction of 85% compared to the previous year.

Appendix 2 - Baseline data – Stonehouse town renewable electricity generation

Current estimate of renewable energy capacity in Stonehouse = 236.4Kwp - see survey data below. Assuming generation of 850kWh per KWp, current renewable energy generation = $850 \times 236 = 200,940$ kWh of renewable generation annually.

The data has been grouped as an approximation of capacity based on number of panels on each property
I also counted the number of solar thermal (hot water) systems seen during the survey.

	Number	Avg capacity	Total Kwp
1 – 2 kWp	19	1.5	28.5
2 – 3 kWp	52	2.2	114.4
3 – 4 kWp	21	3.5	73.5
uppermills ind.est	1	10	10
Sartorious	1	10	10
Totals	<u>94</u>		<u>236.4</u>
Solar thermal	15		

Number of households in Stonehouse = 2,900 (Inform Gloucestershire Parish Profiles January 2019)

Mean electricity use per domestic meter per year in Stroud District = 4,476 Kwh (Beis 2017) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics>

So electricity use in Stonehouse per year is approximately 12,980,400 KWh. **Aim is 50% renewable ie. 6,490,200 KWh per annum**