

Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum – Action Plan Progress February 2021

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

	Activity	Lead	Progress	Actions Agreed
1.1	Find out what energy and fuel is currently used in our daily operations. Then calculate carbon footprint	Paul	Baseline calculated in Sep 2019 using figures for April 18- March 19 Paul has recent figures but hasn't yet got split for Town Hall from Jayne. Original baseline carbon footprint was 13,256Kg/CO2. Now, with split of 1/3 town council, 2/3 GCC for Town Hall building and, taking into account switch of all electricity to renewable energy, total carbon footprint is now 2,401 Kg/CO2e, a reduction of 85% – see Appendix 1	Complete.
1.2	Switch electricity supplier to renewable energy supplier	Sally	All contracts switched to Good Energy	Complete.
1.3	Reduce energy use in Town Hall by insulating, reducing drafts etc	Paul	Energy audit received for the re-furbished Town Hall gives rating of 52- C. Heating controls have been reset and cavity wall insulation has been installed.	Fluorescent tubes will be changed to LED when they need replacing
1.4	Investigate options for adding PV panels to Pavilion	Carol	No news yet on planning application Council agreed that additional income from Network Rail should be used to make building Greener inc solar pv.	Waiting for news on planning application before this can progress.

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 pavilion roofs

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	Paul	COMPLETE. Sep 2019 estimate is 200,940 kWh . Target is 6,490,200 kwh	Re-calculate in Sep 2021 to assess progress.
2.2	Move Town Council pv meter display to prominent public position in Town Hall and promote the carbon reductions and cost savings achieved.	Sally	GCC didn't do this as expected but TC previously agreed to do if GCC didn't. Quotes from B-line (who put meter in originally) are £870 + VAT (outside) or £840 + VAT (inside) - quite expensive, so council is considering installing a display screen where the info can be shared along with other useful information.	Council to carry out survey to establish the best way of disseminating information. Options to include electronic display board.
2.3	Promote installation of renewable energy in businesses, particularly solar pv on roofs in Oldends Lane Industrial Estate.	Carol	<p>Suggestions for speakers to encourage engagement in business network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Jones from SWEA • Stroud Action on Plastics (Chloe Turner) • Nailsworth Climate Action Group <p>Sartorius have recently applied for permission to install pv panels on their roofs. This could be a case study to encourage others and promote good practice.</p> <p>We discussed whether there were opportunities for the schools to install PV panels on their roofs John has given information on solar panels to schools</p>	

2.4	Work with pv solar companies to promote their businesses	?	<p>Council decided not to endorse IDDEA specifically but to hold an event to promote a range of opportunities for the public to take up Information Fair held in Jan 2020 – lots of interest.</p> <p>SWEA is now working with IDDEA and other CAN groups and parish councils to develop clusters of Solar Streets around the District. Once these take off elsewhere, perhaps STC will be happier to support a scheme in Stonehouse.</p>	
2.5	Propose areas for renewable energy generation in next revision of the Neighbourhood Plan	Carol	<p>Council hasn't yet decided whether or not to review N'hood Plan. If TC goes ahead, CSE offer free planning advice & help with low carbon nb'hood plan. Tel - 0117 934 1400 neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk</p>	On hold - there's no land available in the town for renewable energy other than rooftops so it's unlikely that we can progress this action.

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

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	Jayne	<p>There is national scheme already in place – promote to staff. Paul sent info to Jayne to circulate to staff and add to Staff handbook</p>	Complete.
3.2	Support air pollution campaign against engine idling involving school parents	Amy	<p>Town Environment Committee approved monitoring of NOx at 10 locations (including Elm Road).</p>	Quote received to go to Environment Committee on

3.3	Develop safe walking and cycle routes in partnership with district and county councils.	Carol, Alison	<p>Council has asked developers to re-consider proposed route for footpath along Oldends Lane to reduce number of times it crosses the road.</p> <p>Standish PC are working to get GCC to add in missing piece of footpath between Horsemarling Lane and Oxlynch. Now at Pre-feasibility stage. Project has been included in Local Transport Plan and is a GCC Strategic priority but it wasn't included in Active Travel funding allocation.</p> <p>There were several comments about this bit of road in the Active Travel responses, which strengthens our call for action.</p> <p>STC included request to get footpath from school down to Stonehouse Court Hotel widened as part of any development of Wycliffe land: and this has now been included in the planning proposals by the developers.</p> <p><u>Common Place</u> Active Travel Consultation ran during August and Sep. Sally has circulated summary report, written article for next STC newsletter and has shared all responses with GCC officer and Lesley Williams. Also asked Carlos to make sure our staff do anything in their power and to push GCC to clear footpaths</p>	
3.4	Install sufficient safe secure cycle parking	Amy, Carol	<p>Audit done and a list of additional sites has been suggested. These were included by Environment Committee in wish list for possible Highways funding from GCC but no more money available at the moment. Priority is covered racks at station on carpark side of track.</p> <p>Stroud Town Clerk reported Stroud Station racks cost £130k and TC paid 10% from grant from</p>	.

			https://www.gwr.com/about-us/supporting-our-community/customer-and-communities-improvement-fund Env Cttee will look at options.	
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	?	EV charging point has been installed by GCC as part of premises move. Vehicle seems to be nearing end of its life so may need replacing soon. Council reserves include money for purchase of new vehicle	On hold till vehicle needs replacing.
3.6	Encourage more use of local shops as alternative to driving further afield or getting orders delivered to home	Rachel	Facebook Group will now be a great place to share information about Green products in local shops .	
3.7	Encourage more community engagement in campaign to re-open Stroudwater Station		Town council started a petition which has been gaining signatures and support. Progress is being made on talking to decision makers.	Meetings with decision makers are continuing
3.8	Encourage more people to cycle in the town	Amy	It would be great if Access Bike could set up a workshop in Stonehouse as it would be great youth work as well as helping young people access affordable bikes. Town Council would be keen to support this project.	

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 BloomSeek opportunities to actively promote low carbon/methane/NOx 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	John, Jennie	<p>First launch event on Oct 20th.</p> <p>We're planning online Climate Action Fayre webinar to take place on 20th Feb 12 – 2pm</p> <p>John to chair</p> <p>Jennie to provide technical support</p>	All to promote
4.2	Share good practice, sources of grant funding, advice and information about how residents can reduce energy use in their homes.		<p>The council is actively promoting the Government's Green Homes Grants. This 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.</p> <p>Amy has shared 3 online carbon footprint calculators which Jayne is sharing on council website and social media.</p> <p>https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx</p> <p>https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire</p> <p>https://www.carbonindependent.org/#more%20notes</p> <p>Stonehouse Methodist Church have achieved Bronze Award as an Eco Church and are now working towards Silver. Town Council keen to help them share what they've achieved.</p> <p>Town Council has £5k available for community grants which hasn't yet been advertised so hasn't been spent. We could encourage SWEA to apply for grant of £5k to subsidize home energy audits in Stonehouse (usually cost £450 each)? We could then help publicise. No home energy audits being done at present due to COVID.</p>	Paul to talk to staff at SWEA if SWEA would be interested when safe to do so.

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 and encourage waste minimisation and recycling in the town.	Carol	There are many more things we can do such as print newsletter on recycled paper; water harvesting from STC buildings; use recycled paper in office etc. Draft Environmental Policy including office practices, to be considered by Policy Working Group in January. We need information on what can be recycled where.	Rachel to investigate recycling opportunities. All to contribute.
5.2	Encourage low carbon/methane/nox emission food consumption (vegetarian, vegan, extensive pasture grazed animals) through the creation of a farmers' market , putting pressure on shops to reduce packaging on their products and/or other ways .	Liz	Marrows Ltd had expressed interest in having a fruit and veg stall in Stonehouse (95% produce unpackaged, fewer box deliveries needed) but have now decided that if anyone wants to set up a stall here they'll provide the produce but are looking at expanding deliveries instead. We can't do any more unless we come across someone wanting to set up a stall. Liz asked Midcouncils coop about their fruit & veg packaging Reply received said they're committed to reducing packaging and single use plastics	

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	John	18 Feb 2020 Town Council agreed reduced grass cutting contract which will also include increasing bio diversity around edges of grass SDC wild flower planting is great – can we have more Standish PC have approved a wildflower patch on the village green & are funding it. There is interest in doing patches in the churchyard and we are in discussion with Highways to do some on 4008 verges	Environment Committee to review in Dec 2020 and aim to further reduce grass cutting if going well.
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6.2	Encourage the development of woodland either by tree planting or the re-wilding of council owned land.	John	<p>Council has agreed to produce a tree management plan for Doverow Hill and then the whole town. This is progressing.</p> <p>Looks like Town Council’s Network Rail grant for tree planting may be successful – waiting to hear.</p> <p>Park Junior School have £2.5k to spend on trees which will add to the Community Arboretum</p> <p>GCC has a community tree fund coming up.</p> <p>Planted so far: 9 trees at Junior school, 6 in Old Chapel Gardens, 1 outside the High Street Medical Centre. Another 15 to go, making 30 this year.</p>	John is working on the tree management plan
6.3	Encourage pollinators by becoming a “Bee Friendly Town”	Liz	Stonehouse in Bloom are progressing this as a great way of engaging lots of residents in making their gardens part of next year’s In Bloom contribution.	
6.4	Encourage residents and landowners to support bio-diversity in their gardens through information sharing and education	John	<p>Jayne has created a biodiversity page on Council website.</p> <p>Annual Edible Gardens Day was suggested but no-one has capacity to take this on at the moment.</p> <p>Forum members all continue to share useful information with Jayne to share on council website and via Facebook Group.</p> <p>Alison has researched online fact sheets / briefings on use of pesticides and harmful chemicals and shared links</p>	
		Amy	Amy investigated drainage (SUDS) : builders and construction companies seem well-versed so issue is more with regard to individual households creating hard-standing on their drives.	

			<p>Environment Cttee regularly comment on need for permeable surfaces, tree planting etc. on planning applications from businesses re. carparks etc.</p> <p>Can we encourage shops and businesses on the High St to break up the tarmac in front of their premises(in the private front gardens) and put in some garden space? Can Stonehouse in Bloom progress this?</p>	John to talk to Stonehouse in Bloom
6.5	Reduce use of harmful pesticides	John	<p>Staff have confirmed they don't use Glyphosate or any other chemicals unless in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Concerns about the Vineyard and Arle Brook. Amy wrote to the Vineyard to ask them what they spray with and they replied saying they didn't use pesticides. Simon Pickering doesn't think there is any cause for concern.</p> <p>Alison visited Arlebrook with John Field from GWT (involved with the SUD & is investigating higher up stream. As the brook is classified as 'poor' there may be a possibility of funding.</p>	John to produce Land Management Policy which will include commitment not to use harmful chemicals.

7 Community Engagement

7.1	Increase engagement in the Climate Action Forum by raising awareness of its existence and encouraging residents to take action on whatever issue is important to them.	Jennie	Share stories about what we've achieved to encourage and motivate more people to get involved. Jennie has produced short video of achievements in our first year – shared in new Facebook group	
		Rachel	Rachel has set up a facebook group (Stonehouse Climate Action) where public can post tips and ideas for cutting carbon and get more directly involved. Amy will help with Admin of the group. When group has plenty of good content, we will pay for a Facebook Ad to	All to send suggestions and suitable articles to Rachel

		target people living in GL10 area to join the group and also share on the GL10 community page to engage more people.	
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Next Action Forum meeting: Thursday 18th Feb 2021

Appendix 1 Town Council Carbon Footprint

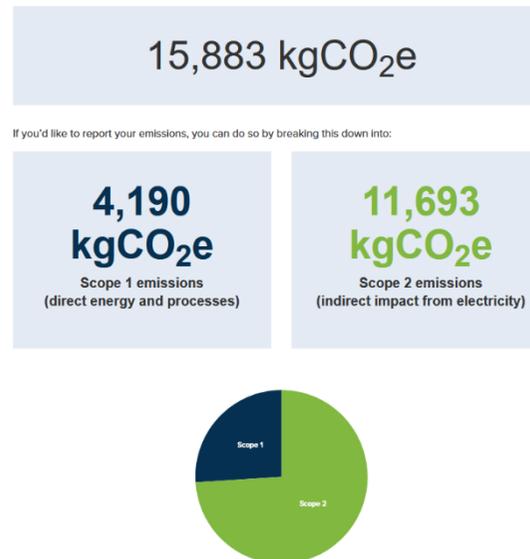
<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/tools/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

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.

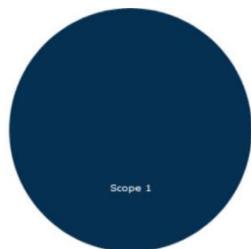
Scope 2 emissions are from purchased electricity for the assets they operate (excluding those from renewable sources)

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 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 kgCO₂e 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

kg CO₂e Scope 1: 100% Scope 2: 0%

2,401



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**