

St Austell Bay Parish Council
Climate Emergency - Update

1. Introduction

In June 2019 (19/031) St Austell Bay Parish Council received a presentation about Climate Change from Pat Smith and resolved that:

St Austell Bay Parish Council should declare a Climate Emergency.

The Parish Council agreed to:

- 1.1 Pledge to make St Austell Bay Parish Council carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2 Call on Westminster and Cornwall Council to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
- 1.3 Work with partners and other government bodies to deliver this goal through all relevant strategic plans and to implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.
- 1.4 Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions St Austell Bay Parish Council will take to address this emergency.
- 1.5 Climate change proposals would be included in policies currently being written for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, such as Renewable Energy and Climate Change, Natural Environment, Housing, Transport and Traffic and Business.

2. Climate Change/Project 2020 Focus Group

In July 2019 (19/055) the Parish Council resolved to set up a working party (Climate Change/Project 2020 Focus Group) consisting of Cllrs Hallows and Reynolds together with Pat Smith to look at steps the Parish Council and community could take to reduce their carbon footprint. The first meeting was held on 27 August 2019. Subsequent information and notices will be put on the website and noticeboards

3. Update

In order to deliver to the resolutions of the Parish Council the Council is asked to agree the following actions, which will become the basis for the St Austell Bay Climate Change Action Plan;

The Parish Council should:

- 3.1 When systems are available, work with Cornwall Council to commit to measuring and managing the carbon footprint of the Parish & Parish Council. St Austell Bay Parish Council will seek to benchmark current carbon output, identify target carbon output and track progress from this data.
- 3.2 Review its asset base in terms of direct and community assets including buildings and facilities, and commit to minimising energy demand. Consider switching to a renewable energy provider for any asset for which they are responsible that has a power or heat demand, i.e. Pattern Hall and Toilets.

- 3.3 Prioritise carbon reduction and climate change impact mitigation as an evaluation criterion for all future financial decision-making including contract award and future precept and other funding allocation determination.
- 3.4 Ensure that all appropriate recommendations in the Councils Climate Change Action Plan are recognised in the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan

4. Aspirations

In order to deliver to these aims the Focus Group has discussed a number of aspirations

- 4.1 Widening Membership of the Focus Group to include other volunteers – Set Up a Parish Climate Action Group, to implement policies?
- 4.2 Work with partners and other local stakeholders to ensure that public areas such as open spaces & play areas are more natural needing less maintenance and the maintenance of footpath & public areas balance the needs of habitat management. e.g. Cut less grass & verges – re-wild areas instead. This will reduce the need to mow (thereby reducing carbon emissions and cost) and will help support biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and our struggling insect populations.
- 4.3 Review use of weed killers and other chemicals in green spaces, roadsides and pathways. Explore practical, natural methods of weed suppression or allow the weeds to thrive and enjoy them – many are beautiful and important food for wildlife.
- 4.4 Plant trees for carbon capture & food and, as they are suitable, seek to use available green spaces for community growing projects.
- 4.5 Install bird & insect boxes. (Ideal project to involve local schools)
- 4.6 Explore energy use and alternatives – ground source heat pumps etc. Ensure renewable energy provision, high energy efficiency and community-led projects are prioritised within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. As appropriate, identify, support or develop local clean energy projects, particularly community led with funding or council backing which delivers benefits for local parishioners. Promote technology for the use of Electric Vehicles.
- 4.7 Provide support & educational information to parishioners that enables individual and group Carbon Reduction action via the website. Organise Energy Saving Advice Surgeries for the local community.
- 4.8 Act as a voice for the community to lobby, raise the profile & share lessons with higher levels of government whilst also acting as a voice for higher levels of government back to the community.
- 4.9 Encourage and promote the use of recycling facilities, such as at the Pattern Hall (Batteries, printer cartridges etc), and Litter picks, Beach Cleans etc
- 4.10 Install LED/low energy light bulbs in the Pattern Hall and Toilets. (If not already done).
- 4.11 Commit to using LOAF ingredients (Local, Organic, Animal Friendly, Fairly Traded). Use recycled paper and environmentally friendly cleaning products.