

# **St Austell Bay Parish Council Climate Crisis Action Plan 2021**

## **1. Introduction**

In June 2019 (19/031) St Austell Bay Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency.

The Parish Council *will*:

- 1.1 Endeavour 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 degrees C.
- 1.4 Regularly review and update the actions needed to address this emergency.
- 1.5 Consider climate change to be at the forefront of all decision making. All planning applications to be determined with regard to the policies contained in the St Austell Bay Neighbourhood Plan, particularly, Renewable Energy and Climate Change, Natural Environment, Housing, Transport and Traffic and Business.

## **2. The Environment and Climate Crisis Action Group (ECCAG)**

In July 2019 (19/055) St Austell Bay Parish Council resolved to set up a working party (Climate Change Project/Project 2020 Focus Group). This group has been renamed as the Environment and Climate Crisis Action Group (ECCAG) and currently consists of Cllrs Reynolds, Bull and Chatterjee together with Pat Smith. The aim of the group is to steer the Parish Council and community towards reducing their carbon footprint and prioritise environmental and sustainable issues.

## **3. Update**

In order to deliver the resolutions of the Parish Council, the Council is asked to agree the following actions updated from the 2019 St Austell Bay Climate Change Action Plan;

The Parish Council should:

- 3.1 Use the Impact Community Carbon Calculator (Exeter University) to measure and manage the carbon footprint of the Parish and Parish Council. St Austell Bay Parish Council will seek to benchmark current carbon output, identify potential reductions 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 in connection with these assets. Switch to a 100% renewable energy provider when the current contract expires, 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 the appropriate policies in the St Austell Bay Neighbourhood Plan are used in determining planning applications.

3.5 Work with other volunteer groups to further the parish council's aims e.g. Diggers and Doers, Charlestown Chums, Charlestown History Group, Chandlers Walk Garden, Charlestown Regatta Committee and Carbon Action St Austell (CASA).

3.6 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 and public areas balance the needs of habitat management, e.g. cut less grass & verges, rewild 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.

3.7 Review the use of weedkillers and other chemicals in green spaces, roadsides and pathways. Explore practical, natural methods of weed suppression or allow weeds to thrive and enjoy them - many are beautiful and important food for wildlife.

3.8 Encourage tree planting to maximise carbon capture.

3.9 Seek to use suitable available green spaces for community growing projects.

3.10 Encourage the installation of bird, bat and insect boxes and promote wildlife corridors.

3.11 Explore energy use and alternatives - ground source heat pumps etc. Ensure renewable energy provision, high energy efficiency and community-led projects are prioritised and supported. Wherever possible identify, support or develop local clean energy projects, particularly community led, with funding or council backing which will deliver benefits for local parishioners. Promote the installation of electrical vehicles charging points.

3.12 Aim to provide support and educational information to parishioners to enable individual and group carbon reduction action. Promote carbon

saving measures via the Parish Council website, poster campaigns, appropriate social media or by arranging advice workshops/surgeries.

**3.13** Act as a voice for the community to raise concerns and to share lessons with higher levels of government. Communicate government consultations/legislation back to the community.

3.14 Encourage and promote the use of recycling facilities, such as at the Pattern Hall (Batteries, printer cartridges etc), Litter picks and Beach Cleans etc.

3.15 Encourage and promote the installation of LED/low energy light bulbs in the Pattern Hall and Toilets.

3.16 Strive to use LOAF products (Local, organic, animal friendly, fairly traded). Use recycled paper and environmentally friendly cleaning products.

3.17 Show corporate and individual leadership to reduce our carbon footprint.

3.18 Actively review the above actions, together with the actions in Climate Change! What can your Council Do? (Previously circulated, but copies will be available at the meeting)

Reviewed 18 November 2021