

Ledbury Town Council – Climate Change Working Party

Action Plan

[Actions have been taken from Ledbury Town Council Corporate Plan and Friends of the Earth - 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency]

No:	Goals	Lead Organisation / Person	Projects to Achieve Goals	Completion
Corporate Plan Objective 1: To promote and contribute to global well-being				
CC1	Build relationships with schools, churches, voluntary organisations and businesses to encourage them to be globally responsible in line with Sustainable Development Goals			
CC2	Endeavour to use environmentally sustainable products at all Civic and Corporate events			
Corporate Plan Objective 2: To undertake local procurement wherever possible, whilst achieving best value for money				
CC3	LTC staff to consider supply chain when entering into the purchase of goods and services			
CC4	Reduce carbon footprint			
CC5	To work with local businesses and the community to provide water refill stations throughout the town			
CC6	Initiate and work with local traders to promote Shop Local campaign			
CC7	Raise awareness of existing energy discount schemes and how energy efficiency of homes can be improved – facilitate an Eco Fair			
CC8	Promote opportunities for community energy projects			
Objective 3: A Plastic-Free Ledbury				
CC8	Develop a plastic free policy for Ledbury Town Council and pledge a commitment to working towards a plastic free town			
CC9	Facilitate and develop regular litter pick events or work with organisations who already do this			
CC10	Provide recycling bins within the town			
Friends of the Earth: Be a Force For Good				
CC11	Encourage the formation of Climate Action groups: <i>local political climate action, build positive community solutions, and join together to demand national action. Parish, town and community councils should encourage and support the formation of these groups. Friends of the Earth will provide resources, training and advice to Climate Action groups (see takeclimateaction.uk).</i>			

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CC12	Actively support small and large planning applications for new renewable energy in the area: <i>planning decisions will be made by the local planning authority, which needs to hear from those that support the applications. The UK needs to increase the amount of renewable energy it generates by around eight-fold.</i>			
CC13	Promote practical action by local people: <i>create an impartial local guide to help people to practically reduce their own carbon footprint or support nature. The guide can provide information on accredited local businesses and be invaluable help to keep money in the local economy. The guide could include information on local accredited energy assessors and renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV charging points and heat pumps, eco-friendly retailers, green builders and landscape companies, etc. It can also encourage sustainable transport options.</i>			
CC14	Bring together groups of people for bulk purchases: <i>The costs of installing solar PV, or other renewable technologies such as heat pumps, should be much lower if done in bulk, street by street, or area by area. A town or parish council can bring together local homeowners and businesses to develop such a scheme. Bulk purchases of energy audits or energy insulation is also possible. Transition Streets is an example of this approach.</i>			
CC15	Develop and promote lift-sharing scheme: <i>Convene local businesses and car-sharing schemes, such as the social enterprise Liftshare, it's possible to help local people reduce the carbon pollution from car use, save money and foster new friendships. Car-sharing schemes for non-commuting journeys should also be promoted.</i>			
CC16	Use your voice: <i>Decisions on infrastructure projects are largely made by local authorities, Local Economic Partnerships, or by national government. But too many of these decisions will increase carbon emissions and / or harm nature. Use your voice when possible to oppose high-carbon developments, promoting sustainable alternatives instead. Press local authorities and MPs to demand national changes to bus services regulations, so all areas can regulate buses as</i>			

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	<i>London does, and urban profit-making routes can cross-fund loss making rural routes.</i>			
Friends of the Earch: Demonstrate leadership through your own practical actions				
CC17	Save energy: <i>Ensure any council buildings are as energy efficient as possible and any street lighting uses well-directed LED lighting. Getting an energy audit is the first step</i>			
CC18	Produce green energy: <i>install renewable energy generation, like heat pumps and solar PV, at council buildings. Heat pumps benefit from a government grant that will partially cover the cost. Buildings using renewable energy should also be used as a showcase to help local people see these technologies first-hand, particularly less familiar technologies such as heat pumps.</i>			
CC19	Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities: <i>reduce activities that harm wildlife, from using peat-free compost to shunning pesticides and ensuring light pollution is controlled. Glastonbury Town Council has stopped using glyphosate weed killer and instead uses a hot foam system. These steps alone are not enough to protect and restore nature but are an important first step. To encourage others, promote the actions you're taking, for example use signage on council-owned land where you use peat-free compost.</i>			
CC20	Manage land for nature: <i>town councils have responsibility for allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, commons and open spaces, and village greens. All can be managed to enhance nature, particularly through changing mowing regimes. Friends of the Earth and Buglife have produced a guide to developing an action plan to help pollinators such as bees. B project aims to support the development of a network of wildlife friendly corridors.</i>			
CC21	Increase tree cover: <i>Friends of the Earth is campaigning for the UK to double tree cover. The Forestry Commission and others have suggested that even urban areas should aim for at least 20% tree cover. Town councils should aim to double tree cover and, if necessary, go beyond this to reach the 20% minimum. Much of this will involve encouraging and supporting landowners to take part in tree planting. The Tree Charter, developed by the</i>			

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	<i>Woodland Trust, provides excellent guidance on how to increase tree cover.</i>			
CC22	Buy green <i>Buying local supports the local economy and buying green can help protect the planet, rewarding businesses committed to a better future. Buying green electricity helps develop new renewable energy and ensures the council isn't supporting dirty energy financially. Friends of the Earth has identified Ecotricity and Good Energy as the greenest energy companies. Buying green can also extend to any food provided at events, including providing mainly plant-based food and less, but better, meat and dairy.</i>			
CC32	Use green transport <i>Employees and councillors should be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport or car-share. The council should provide bikes or electric bikes for staff as they carry out any work-related trips. It should also provide zero-interest loans for buying bikes. Where a car or van is needed it should be electric only.</i>			
CC33	Minimise waste going to landfill or incineration <i>ensure all your waste is recycled or composted, but also consider setting-up community recycling facilities for hard-to-recycle items when the local authority hasn't done so, for example in partnership with Terracycle: or a community composting scheme. The best approach for waste minimisation is reuse (eg reusable cups) or avoiding unnecessary purchases.</i>			
CC34	Ensure money is invested wisely: the council should ensure any council funds are invested safely in low-risk sustainable banks or investment funds.			
Friends of the Earth: Use your powers wisely				
CC35	Ensure you know the climate change or nature implications of decisions before you make them <i>Require every decision to be well informed is good practice. This should extend to demanding that the planning authority provides you all information on climate change or nature implications when consulting you.</i>			

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CC36	<p>Designate sites within the Neighbourhood Plan for trees, renewable energy and nature restoration</p> <p><i>In practice, the development of 90% of Neighbourhood Plans is led by town councils working hand in hand with their communities. The Neighbourhood Planning process is far from perfect and very time consuming, but it offers the community the opportunity to show it means business on protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.</i></p>	Cllr Howells / Ledbury NDP Group		
CC37	<p>Use the Neighbourhood Plan to require new homes to be energy efficient, nature friendly, and located close to public transport and amenities.</p> <p><i>Neighbourhood Plans can identify sites for future housing and should push for these to be zero-carbon (eg Passivhaus standard) and nature friendly, even though the local planning authority may seek to override this aim. Homes should also be fitted with renewable energy. Homes need to be located close to amenities and public transport to avoid car dependency.</i></p>	Cllr Howells / Ledbury NDP Group		
CC38	<p>Designate safe walking and cycle routes in the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p><i>Identify safe walking and cycling routes and where necessary work in partnership with Herefordshire Council to deliver them. The Propensity to Cycle tool identifies the huge potential for increasing cycling in all areas of the country, particularly with good quality infrastructure, such as segregated cycleways and cycle parking, and with the use of E-bikes.</i></p>			
CC39	<p>Use differential car-parking charges to support low-carbon vehicles</p> <p><i>Any car parks run by the council should offer low cost or free car-parking to electric vehicles and dedicated spaces with electric charging points.</i></p>			