

SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

2024 – 2050



What is Climate Change?



Climate change is a global issue affecting countries around the world, including the United Kingdom (U.K.).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Burning fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial processes, and agriculture release greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) into the atmosphere, trapping heat and causing global temperatures to rise.

Global Warming: The increase in average global temperatures leads to melting ice caps, rising sea levels, altered weather patterns, and more extreme weather events. Flooding has also become more frequent and severe, threatening communities and infrastructure worldwide. Additionally, prolonged droughts and heatwaves significantly worsen water scarcity, harm agriculture, and increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires too.

These interconnected issues put immense pressure on ecosystems and human societies, demanding urgent action to mitigate their effects.

Declaring a Climate Emergency



By declaring a Climate Emergency we've acknowledged that the Council needs to act on the causes and impacts of climate change. This means as a council we are committed to enhancing positive steps towards reducing the possible contribution to climate change.

Southwater Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 15th November 2023.

Vision Statement

Southwater Parish Council is committed to leading by example in the fight against climate change. As detailed in our Climate Action Plan, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint, protect our local environment, and encourage and work collaboratively with residents, schools, and local organisations. By implementing the listed actions, our goal is to transform Southwater into an environmentally sustainable and resilient community, contributing to the national target of carbon neutrality by 2050*.

We will continue to work closely with Horsham District's '*Parish and Neighbourhood Council Climate Action Group*', '*Horsham Green Spaces Forum*' and local climate focused groups and organisations.



Our Climate Action Plan

Our climate action plan objectives are aligned with our Business Plan, Neighbourhood Plan and works towards the U.K.'s national target to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The plan is a collection of the actions, we as a Parish Council are committed to take in order to reduce the carbon footprint of our organisation, help protect the natural areas of the Parish and work together with local groups, schools and our residents to turn Southwater Parish into an environmentally friendly area and to be a leading example for other councils and parishes.



Action Plan Key

Action Status

SPC

Objectives where SPC can directly provide the noted activity, service or utilise contractors, outsource to companies.

Partnership

Objectives where SPC must work with other bodies to deliver the noted activity or service.

Lobby

Objectives where SPC cannot act itself, either directly or through partnerships, so must work to influence and lobby the relevant body or organisation to encourage a positive outcome for Southwater.



Document Key

2024 - 2050 – From Financial Year 2024/2025 onwards to align with National Target date of 2050.

Timeframe

Ongoing commitment

Short – 1 year

Medium – 1- 4 years

Long – 4+ years

HDC – Horsham District Council

SGL – Sussex Green Living

SNP – Southwater Neighbourhood Plan

*National Target by 2050 –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

Useful Links:

[Southwater Parish Council Business Plan](#)

[Sussex Green Living Website](#)

[Terracycle Website](#)

[Southwater Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan](#)



Actions

Actions	Status	Timeframe	Budget	Action Status	Additional comments
1. Add Climate Change page to the Parish Website and use social media, posters and newsletters to engage with the public regarding this topic.	In Progress	Short	As per staffing.	SPC	
2. Prepare media and communications to residents to engage residents and support a joint effort towards the climate.	In Progress	Medium	As per staffing.	SPC	Via online media, posters, hardcopy, noticeboards in Southwater.
3. Upholding sustainable travel Neighbourhood Planning Policies as part of the Planning Process.	In Progress	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	SPC	<p>SNP15.1 - To facilitate the shift to low emission vehicles, development proposals must support the introduction and use of electric vehicles.</p> <p>SNP15.2 - All proposals that include car parking must demonstrate that car charging points can or will be installed adjacent to all parking spaces on site with ease (either now or in the future).</p> <p>SNP15.3 - Proposals which provide full car charging infrastructure at the outset will be viewed more favourably than those which do not.</p>



Actions

4. Explore Carbon Reducing Measures and Decreasing Energy Consumption at Parish Council owned or operated buildings.	In Progress	Medium	As per staffing.	SPC	Cited in SPC Business Plan 2024-29. Sustainability consultant instructed.
5. Investigate renewable energy providers for Beeson House and Streetlighting.	Not Started	Short	As per staffing.	SPC	Cost to benefit analysis required, where SPC currently procures electricity through LASER a company wholly owned by Kent County Council. To achieve HDC climate action change target D.
6. SPC Staff and Councillors to be encouraged to use Ecosia as the preferred search engine for online web searches.	Not Started	Short	As per staffing and councillors.	SPC	By using the free to use search engine, you support their tree planting scheme. https://www.ecosia.org/
7. No Mow May to enhance biodiversity.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	No cost.	SPC	SPC stops grass cutting of many of its large open spaces in the month of May to provide a boost to wild plants and wildlife.



Actions

8. Reduce carbon footprint for Beeson House, in particular cleaning products, paper hygiene and disposables.	In Progress	Medium	Price comparison and quote process required	SPC	<p>To prefer use of “planet friendly” cleaning and sanitary products in the building.</p> <p>To use refills where possible on these items so no extra plastic gets used.</p> <p>To move towards using recycled or more planet friendly cleaning disposables i.e. recycled paper towels.</p> <p>Set up Terracycle bins in partnership with SGL.</p>
9. Reduce carbon footprint for SPC Office space.	In Progress	Medium	As per staffing and councillor cooperation.	SPC	Council operations to prefer online documents and avoid printing where possible to do so. Staff encouraged to recycle different types of rubbish, coffee pods and other types using recycling bins and via other recycling schemes.
10. Reduce carbon footprint for SPC employees.	In Progress	Short	As per staffing.	SPC	Employees/staff to work from home sporadically reduces carbon footprint from commute. Subject to Executive Officer Approval and Working From Home Policy. Those living close enough encouraged to walk, cycle, or use public transport where appropriate to do so.
11. Upgrade of all lights in Beeson House to more energy efficient LED light fittings.	In Progress	Short	Quote process required.	SPC	£5,000 grant obtained.



Actions

12. Upgrade of all Streetlights owned and operated by SPC to more energy efficient LED light fittings.	In Progress	Short	Quote process undertaken	SPC	33 streetlights upgraded to LED light fittings to date. £5,000 grant obtained.
13. Instruct Sustainability/ Climate Consultant to help measure carbon emissions and progress tracking.	In Progress	Short	£4,450 ex VAT	SPC	JRP Solutions are currently working on SPC's carbon emission audit.
14. Implement findings from the Sustainability Consultant to reduce carbon emissions	Not Started	Medium	See report.	SPC	Report received and submitted to council for voting 15th January 2025.
15. Upholding protection of Green Space Neighbourhood Planning Policies as part of the Planning Process.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	SPC	SNP5.2 – There will be a presumption against all development on Local Green Space except in very special circumstances. SNP6.2 - Development proposals affecting Local Community Spaces will only be supported if the proposed development improves the existing use and community value of the space.



Actions



16. Upholding protection of Trees and Treed Landscape Neighbourhood Planning Policies as part of the Planning Process.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	SPC	See SNP18 – A Treed Landscape policies in the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan.
17. Upholding the Enhancement of Non-motorised Transport Network Neighbourhood Planning Policies as part of the Planning Process.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	SPC	See SNP13 – Enhancing Our Non-Motorised Transport Network policies in the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan.
18. Tree protection and woodland management.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	As per budget and ongoing commitment. See Business Plan.	SPC	To continue to manage woodlands and trees owned by SPC in a way that provides opportunities for nature conservation, areas of high biodiversity, managed appropriately in accordance with accepted practices and with respect for their value as important landscape features, wildlife habitats, carbon sequestration, and recreational amenities.
19. Investigate feasibility of a Community Composting facility	Not Started	Long	As per staffing.	SPC	Carry out feasibility study with respect to understanding the models of other Parishes and Towns who have successfully implemented and operated one. May require working in partnership.



Actions



20. Encourage and promote the use of Public footpaths, Cycle paths and Bridleways.	In Progress	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	Partnership	To work with HDC* WSSC* to ensure that existing cycle and pedestrian pathways are well maintained and signposted and that new cycle and pedestrian pathways, where created, are officially designated as public footpaths and/or bridleways as appropriate.
21. Invite Southwater Guides to develop the design of Southwater Parish Climate Action Plan logo, incorporating slogan "Our Parish, Our Climate" utilising a graphic designer to make logo usable in various media.	Completed	Short	£90.00 ex VAT	Partnership	
22. Encourage and invite residents, local groups and business to submit ideas to the Climate Action Plan, to work together on Climate Change projects with SPC.	In Progress	Medium	As per staffing and councillors.	Partnership	
23. Explore provision of Solar PV and "Green" energy at Beeson House and other Parish Council owned or operated buildings.	Not Started	Long	Tender process required.	Partnership	Cited in SPC Business Plan 2024-29. Cited in Initial Energy Assessment Report dated 24th December 2024, from JRP Solutions. Beeson House would require engagement with the Landlord HDC.



Actions



<p>24. SPC to hold Public Workshops for residents of Southwater Parish to provide their views and input into Climate Change requirements and use these occasions to update attendees.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>As per staffing and councillors.</p>	<p>Partnership</p>	<p>Meetings to be scheduled annually in advance of the annual review of the Climate Action Plan. Could be a combined event with lectures, speakers, and local climate groups.</p>
<p>25. Climate Change Group visit to local waste and recycling facilities. - Biffa Brookhurst Wood - Ford Recycling Centre</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>As per staffing and councillors. Minor travel expenses incurred.</p>	<p>Partnership</p>	<p>To improve knowledge, awareness and understanding of local waste and the recycling process to better inform the Climate Action Plan. Visited Ford Recycling centre on 23rd Oct 2024</p>
<p>26. Develop and implement ideas on how we can positively influence waste management/recycling at a personal & local level in Southwater</p>	<p>Not Started</p>	<p>Long</p>	<p>As per staffing and councillors.</p>	<p>Partnership</p>	
<p>27. Engage with the 3 primary schools in Southwater to inform and educate on being more climate oriented, encouraging recycling, reducing waste etc. Investigate the possibility of getting pupils and teachers involved and sharing information via the Parent mail systems.</p>	<p>Not Started</p>	<p>Long</p>	<p>As per staffing and councillors.</p>	<p>Partnership</p>	<p>Pupil numbers (gov.uk website 11th Nov 2024) SIA – 281 SJA – 436 Castlewood- 201 Councillors to assist in promoting at local schools. Set specific projects.</p>



Actions



28. Enable, support and encourage a Repair Café or Men's Shed in Southwater.	In Progress	Medium	As per staffing and councillors.	Partnership	Menssheds.org.uk offer guidance. In partnership with Shipley Parish.
29. Promote additional community litter picking days for the Parish.	Not Started	Medium	As per staffing and councillors. As per Council's approved marketing and engagement budget.	Partnership	SPC to support and promote litter picking days in cooperation with Southwater Community Partnership and other organisations within the Parish to improve awareness of recycling, encourage ownership of and keeping Southwater tidy. This is in addition to the litter picking already carried out by SPC employed Litter Wardens.
30. Arrange, support and encourage educational talks, presentations on climate change related topics.	Not Started	Short	As per staffing and councillors.	Partnership	To improve awareness and knowledge on climate change, carbon literacy, and being more sustainable.
31. To support a local Foodbank or Community Fridge	Not Started	Medium	As per staffing and councillors.	Partnership	Community Fridge already established in Southwater.



Actions



32. To encourage residents to grow their own food produce through provision of allotments.	Ongoing Commitment	Short	As per staffing.	Partnership	SPC provides Easteds Allotments working in partnership with Easteds Allotment Association.
33. Carry out feasibility study to explore and investigate the possibility of expanding Easteds Allotments to provide more plots.	Not Started	Medium	As per staffing.	Partnership	Cited in SPC Business Plan 2024-29. To be carried out in consultation with Easteds Allotment Association
34. We will continue to work closely with Horsham District's 'Parish and Neighbourhood Council Climate Action Group', 'Horsham Green Spaces Forum' and local climate focused groups and organisations.	Ongoing Commitment	Long	As per staffing.	Partnership	
35. Lobby HDC* for recycling bins in Lintot Square to increase recycling and reduce general refuse waste.	Completed	Short	Paid by HDC.	Lobby	Successfully lobbied HDC to install two recycling bins in Lintot Square on the 14th November 2024.
36. Engage with WSCC, HDC, Building Developers and Southwater Ghyll CIO to provide EV Charging points within Southwater.	Not Started	Long	As per staffing and councillors.	Lobby	Cited in SPC Business Plan 2024-29.



Actions



<p>37. Lobbying West Sussex County Council Highways for reduced speed limits in Southwater Parish in relation to decreasing nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions.</p>	<p>Not Started</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>As per staffing and councillors.</p>	<p>Lobby</p>	<p>Lower speed limits can contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing fuel consumption and associated CO₂ and NO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Vehicles emit NO₂ as a byproduct of nitrogen reacting with oxygen at high combustion temperatures. Driving at lower speeds typically reduces engine strain and combustion temperatures, which can decrease NO₂ production.</p>
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Review

Southwater Parish Council's Climate Change Action Plan to be reviewed yearly by the Executive Officer, Deputy Executive Officer and the Community Engagement Officer in consultation with the Climate Action Plan Working Group.

Review period: Annually

Last reviewed: 6th January 2025

Approved: 15th January 2025

Next review: January 2026

Climate Action Plan Working Group to meet annually in January with a view to reviewing the action plan, then advising and reporting to Council in March.

