



NORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL
WINDMILL LANE
NORTHAM
DEVON
EX39 1BY

To: All Members of the Climate Emergency Committee

Town Clerk: Mrs Jane Mills MILCM
Telephone and Fax: 01237 474976
E-mail townclerk@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cc: All Northam Town Councillors

You are hereby summoned to attend a Climate Emergency Committee Meeting on Thursday 10th February 2022 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Members of the public will be admitted at the start of the meeting.

M. J. Mills

Mrs Jane Mills MILCM
Town Clerk

Date of issue: 4th February 2022

The following are Members of the Climate Emergency Committee:

Councillors Hames (Chairman), Newman-McKie (Vice Chair), Chalmers, Laws and Mrs McCarthy plus the Mayor, ex-officio (Cllr Mrs Hodson).

All Members of the Council are entitled to attend.

Co-opted Members: Ms P Gibb, Mr T Wiersma, Ms W Lo-vell.



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AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Chairman's announcements**
- 3 **Declarations of interest:**
Members are reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.
- 4 **To agree the agenda as published**
- 5 **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022**
(herewith)
- 6 **To consider Action Points** *(herewith)*
- 7 **Public Participation**
Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 4 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 20 minutes.
- 8 **Top consider amendments to the Draft Climate Action Plan. (Agenda item limited to 30 minutes).** *(herewith).*
- 9 **To confirm the decision to meet virtually with representatives of the student body at Bideford College.**
- 10 **To receive an update on EV charging in the Northam Town area** *(verbal - Cllr Hames)*
- 11 **To receive an update on Footpath Guides for the Northam area** *(verbal – Cllr Hames)*
- 12 **To consider the revised quote for Solar PV installation at Northam Hall** *(to follow)*

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 13th January 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Laws and Hodson
Mr T Wiersma (co-opted members)

In attendance: Guy Langton - Deputy Town Clerk

2201/974 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Newman-McKie.

2201/975 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported that he and volunteers had planted daffodils in Anchor Park as part of a project approved by Town Projects Committee.

Cllr Hames further reported that the Torridge District Council Climate Emergency Working Group had reviewed and commented on the Devon Climate Assembly recommendations regarding the Devon Carbon Plan.

2201/976 Declarations of interest:

Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.

2201/977 To agree the agenda as published

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)

2201/978 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2022

It was **resolved** to agree the minutes as recorded.

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)

2111/979 To consider Action Points

The Committee heard updates on the action points, including:

Working with Bideford College on climate-related matters - Cllr Hodson reported that the effects of Covid-19 had been felt at the school, so staff and student absence had limited the possibilities. The students had operated a small-scale clothes swap event and it was hoped that a follow-up event in the spring would generate more interest. It was agreed that a virtual meeting would be arranged to open channels of communication between the students and the Committee. All members agreed and this would be ratified at the next meeting of the Committee.

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to seek attendees from the members of the Committee.

Action Point: Cllr Hodson to liaise with the Cadet.

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to include ratification on the February agenda of this Committee.

Deputy Town Clerk to arrange the meeting between the Chairmen of Town Projects & Asset Management and Climate Emergency Committee as soon as possible – Cllr Hames reported that he had contacted the Chairman of the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee, who had given his support to the installation of solar panels and battery storage at Northam Hall.

The remainder were noted.

- 2201/980 Public Participation**
No members of the public attended the meeting.
- 2201/981 To consider applications for co-option to the Committee**
It was **resolved** to co-opt Wendy Lo-Vel as a resident member of the Climate Emergency Committee.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour)
Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to contact Ms Lo-Vel.
- 2201/982 To receive an update on EV charging in the Northam Town area**
Cllr Hodson reported that Wilkies Field car park in Westward Ho! had been well used in the summer of 2021, generating income for Torridge District Council. It was hoped that the increase in usage may lead the third party EV charge point provider to include the area in its installation plans.
It was **resolved** to write to the relevant officers at Torridge District Council to request that the parking ground be used a pilot for the installation of EV charge points for Westward Ho!
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded Cllr Laws (all in favour).
Action point: Cllr Hames to draft and send the letter.
- 2201/983 To receive an update on *Life on the Verge***
It was **resolved** to divide the project into two phases and provide training for staff as required.
Phase 1. Sites at:
Cornborough Road – continue with rewilding.
Highfield – prepare for wildflowers with yellow rattle.
Atlantic Way – prepare for bulb planting.
Churchfield – prepare for bulb planting.
Golf Links Road – prepare for wildflowers with yellow rattle.
Phase 2: Sites at:
Lundy View, Appledore Road, Churchill Way/Wooda Road, Hanson Park, Heywood Road.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour)
Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to advise Devon County Council officers and division member of the plans.
Action point: Council staff to plan the work in, seeking training and/or advice if necessary.
- 2201/984 To consider the installation of Solar PV and Battery Storage system at Northam Hall**
It was **resolved** to seek up to date prices from Company C, the favoured provider and proceed if appropriate.
Proposed: Cllr Laws, seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour).
Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to seek up to date costs and instruct contractor, circulating to committee members if necessary.

2201/985 To consider updating the *draft* Climate Emergency Action Plan
 It was **resolved** to request all members send their comments to Cllr Hames and the Deputy Town Clerk for collation in advance of the February meeting of this Committee, where there would be a timed item of 30 minutes to consider the updates.
 Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded Cllr Laws (all in favour).

Action point: all members to draft comments and circulate as indicated.

2201/986 To receive an update from the LCWIP steering group.
 The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Group and reported that there was a good presentation (circulated to members of the Climate Emergency Committee). However, he had commented that leisure cycling should be included in the LCWIP plan and he thought that additional cycle/pedestrian routes should be included.

The Committee heard that the North Devon Cycling Campaign had submitted a map to the LCWIP consultants which showed additional suggested routes.

2201/987 To consider the recommendation from the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee regarding rain water capture at Northam Hall
 It was **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee and progress the project, to include recycled juice containers as the water tanks.
 Proposed: Cllr Hodson, seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour).

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to order the equipment and progress the project.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8:10pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

Action points for January 2022

RAG rating:	Green Complete	Amber In progress	Red To start
1. Drafting a Northam Town area Footpath Guide:	2.1 Cllr Hames review the project and make contact with local groups.	On the agenda	The DTC has made contact with the Burrows Rangers, meeting to be arranged. App development is a specialist skill, which the NTC staff do not have. The project would have to be put in the hands of an App developer. A meeting remains to be confirmed with the Burrows Rangers.
	2.2 Deputy Town Clerk to research App development and liaise with the Ranger at Northam Burrows.		
2. EVs	Cllr Hames to continue discuss the plans for installing an EV charging network in car-parks across the Town area further with Officers at Torridge District Council.	See agenda item 9	Requested to be on the Full Council agenda for February 2022.
	Cllr Hames to request consideration of the installation of EV charge points at Bone Hill be placed on a future Full Council agenda.		
	Cllr Hames to write to TDC regarding the installation of EV charge points at Wilkies Field car park in Westward Ho!		
3. Working with Bideford College on climate-related matters Cllr Hodson to liaise with the Cadet to establish suitable dates for a Zoom meeting.	Decision to be included on the Feb 2022 agenda for ratification.	On the agenda and ongoing.	

4. Cllr Hames to write to TDC regarding the installation of EV charge points at Wilkies Field car park in Westward Ho!	To be updated at the meeting	ongoing
5. Life on the Verge	Deputy Town Clerk to advise relevant Devon CC officers (NHO and Ecologists) of the Council's planned verge maintenance activities.	Ongoing
	Council maintenance staff to work according to the plans, including any training or advice necessary.	Ongoing
6. Solar PV at Northam Hall	Deputy Town Clerk to seek updates of the costs from the identified supplier.	On investigation, the DTC established Full Council had identified a provider that suggested on-roof limpet installation rather than in-roof. The DTC has requested updated costs.
7. Draft Climate Action Plan	Members of the Committee to circulate suggested amendments in advance of a timed agenda item at the February 2022 meeting.	Ongoing
8. Rain water capture at Northam Hall	Deputy Town Clerk to order the required equipment and plan the installation with the maintenance team.	Ongoing.

Northam Town Council

Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan

(to be reviewed annually)

Version 8

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Strengthen and update this text

1. Introduction

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt all around the world - for example, melting glaciers causing sea level rise, drought conditions affecting food crops and driving emigration to the cities and beyond, severe flooding in low lying territories reducing food crops and again causing population dispersal, reduction in water supplies and loss of habitats for wildlife leading to species extinction. Ten years left

Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. To reduce the chance of runaway global heating and limit the effects of climate breakdown it is vital that people reduce their CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions. We should understand what has led us to the climate and ecological emergency we are now facing and then ask what a zero carbon future will look like. However, individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.

Our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius limit before 2050. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming (October 2018), describes the enormous harm that a 2 degrees Celsius rise is likely to cause but states that a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Local councils around the world have declared a 'climate emergency' and committed resources to address this. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to implement policies which limit the impact of climate and environmental breakdown. Towns, cities and local authorities at all tiers are uniquely positioned to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions; Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities as well as improved personal, social and environmental well-being for people, locally and worldwide. [Pictures here of effects of global heating?](#) [Temperature increase chart?](#) [Met Office graphic showing climate change impacts?](#)

[Update this](#)

2. Aims and Vision

In August 2019, Northam Town Council declared a climate emergency and committed to an action plan within six months with the aim of securing net zero carbon emissions relating to the Council's buildings and assets by 2030 and achieving significant reductions in carbon emissions in Northam parish by the same date. A Climate Emergency Sub-Committee was set up consisting of five Councillors and four co-opted members of the public tasked with producing a carbon reduction plan by March 31st 2020 and to report to every meeting of NTC's Town Projects Committee'. [Plan produced March 2020 by what is now Climate Emergency Committee which has its own budget.](#)

The Council plans to reduce carbon emissions from its buildings and operations through reduction in waste, transport and energy use, planning decisions and policies, provision of food at Council functions, ordering goods and services which do not harm the environment and **looking at** investing in environmentally sustainable funds. The Council also plans measures to increase biodiversity and to reduce water usage. However, If the Council succeeds but the rest of the borough fails to meet these targets then there will be failure overall. The Council's own emissions will be a tiny proportion of that area's total emissions, so it is vitally important to work with large emitting partners in the public and private sector and to engage communities and householders.

Our initial proposals of action to reduce emissions within the Council and in the wider community are set out in Section 4 of the Plan and proposed actions to engage the community in achieving our target are set out in Chapter 5. To achieve our targets, it is vital that we work to the same standards and use the same methodology as other Councils in Devon, tying in with the County Council Climate Emergency Plan.

[Put in specific aims?](#)

[The World has only ten years left to keep global temperatures below 1.5C and to avoid catastrophic climate change which could make life on earth impossible for millions of people. However, by implementing the necessary measures human beings can adapt to a way of life with hugely positive benefits](#) Our vision is that by coming together to reduce our carbon emissions the lives of local people can be enriched in positive ways. Imagine a future of clean air, of children [playing safely in the open air](#), more birdsong and wildlife, thriving local economies and homes and businesses powered by renewable energy. It would be a society of connection, collaboration and community, with a sense of collective purpose.

2. What Northam TC has done so far?

3. Key Information About Northam Parish



The parish of Northam includes Northam, Appledore, Westward Ho! and Orchard Hill. Northam is mainly a residential area with an historic core of narrow streets, shops and church while Orchard Hill is residential, with housing developments spreading out from an area of large eighteenth and nineteenth century houses.

Four distinct areas.

Appledore is separated by green fields from Northam and lies at the tip of a peninsula at the mouth of the Torridge estuary. The village has a strong visual identity which is formed by old houses on narrow streets and passageways called 'drangs'. It has a rich fishing and ship building tradition.

Westward Ho! was developed by the Victorians as a holiday resort and as well as accommodating extensive residential development still includes the holiday function in modified form.

The total population of the parish is around 13,000 which consists of the following age groups (Source: Northam Town Study 2010):

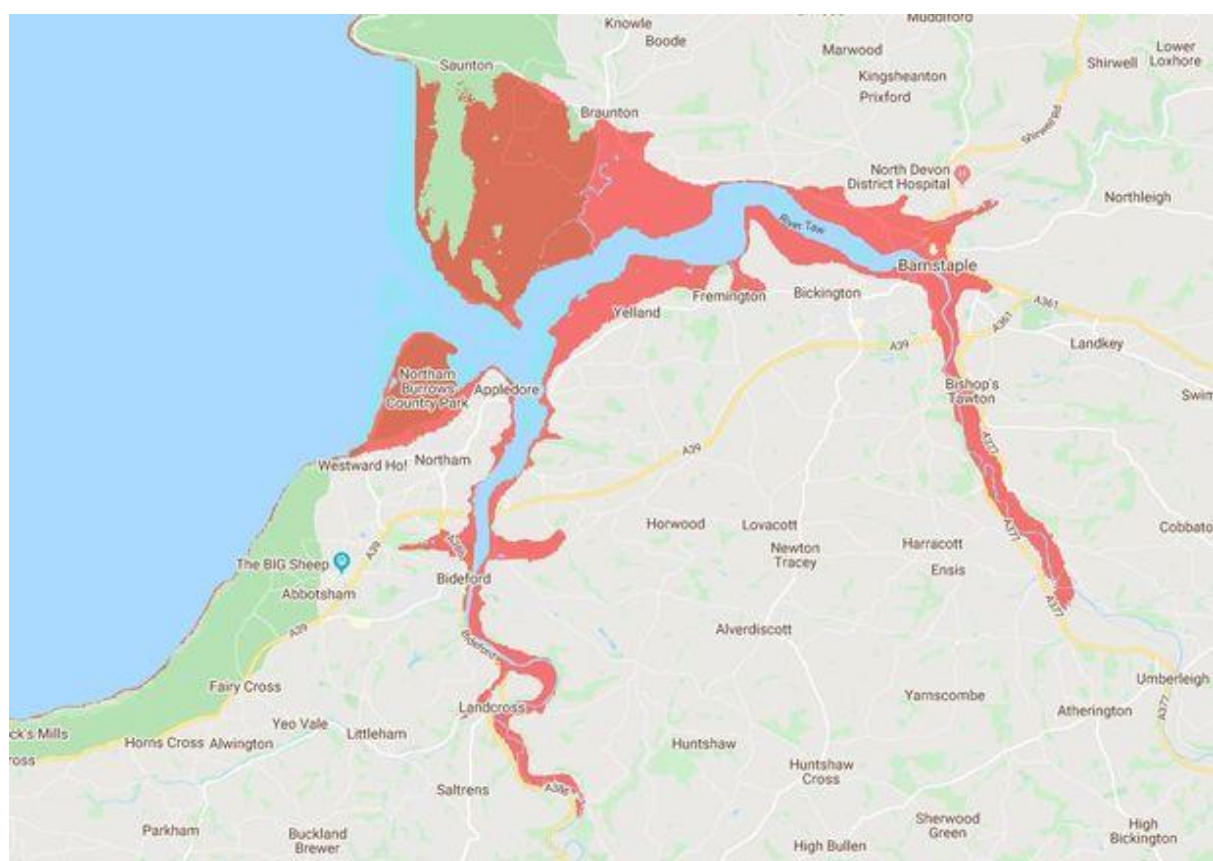
- 0-19 16 %
- 20-39 18.1 % [Update](#)
- 40-59 26.8 %
- 60-79 30.6 %
- 80+ 8.5 %

These figures show there is a significant element of retired people in the parish (more than the Torridge average) while those who are employed or self-employed mainly work outside the area,

except those who work locally in the shops, cafes and tourist facilities. Tourism is an important element in the local economy, contributing around £65 million per year in 2007 (source Northam Town Study). Currently the large indoor shipyard at Appledore is closed but it is hoped new work will be taken on soon.

Apart from residential areas the parish is characterised at Westward Ho! by a long sandy beach backed by a pebble ridge. Behind the Ridge lies Northam Burrows which is a grazing common and also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and part of the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere. The Burrows leads to the Torridge Estuary which is also an SSSI.

The main specific climate challenge to the area is future flooding from rising sea levels which will affect Northam Burrows and residential properties at Westward Ho!, exacerbated by the gradual angling in of the Pebble Ridge towards Westward Ho! as identified in the 2007 Pethick Report on the Geomorphology and Management of the Taw and Torridge Estuaries. Smaller coastal strips at Appledore and on the estuary at Northam would also be affected. The following is an Environment Agency map showing predicted flooding in the area by 2050.



Replace

[this map with latest one](#)

Another process likely to impact on the parish is an increase in average temperatures due to global heating which will lead to more frequent drought conditions with serious effect on the quality of grazing on Northam Burrows and other areas in the parish. **and on food supplies.**

4. Action to reduce Emissions

Waste

NTC

More re-use of materials in office, workshop etc; **provide re-usable water bottles**; paper-saving; double-sided printing; increase recycling (e.g. ink cartridges), facilities for; composting; reduce food waste in office and at functions (do we need to supply food?). How much is repaired and could be? Inculcate awareness of waste reduction in staff and councillors – workshops, **training**.

Parish

Figures on recycling rate in Northam? **How to improve**. Emphasise re-use and encourage repair facilities (Men's Sheds?). **Put out information on website etc on what can be recycled**. Reduction of single use plastics (work with Torridge **single-plastic** group). **Food waste reduction campaign** (e.g. in schools); community composting; set up recycling for hard to recycle materials; **arrange for TDC to collect food waste and unshredded paper waste for recycling; recycle ink cartridges to charity; place recycling bins in NTC parks – investigate installation of SMART recycling bins**. **Info on NTC website?**

COSTINGS NEEDED FOR EACH PROJECT –PUT IN THE PROJECT TABLES Or appendix?

Project	Reduction of Paper Waste
Description	Reduction and re-use of paper, double sided printing, using paper from recycled sources.
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Parish

Figures on recycling rate in Northam? How to improve. Emphasise re-use and encourage repair facilities (Men in Sheds?). Reduction of single use plastics (work with Torridge group). Food waste reduction campaign; community composting; set up recycling for hard to recycle materials.

Project	Organise recycling and composting scheme to enable maintenance men to recycle materials collected as part of their work.
Description	Provide containers at Northam Hall and compost bins at Windmill Lane and Burrough Farm allotments. Install recycle bins at Lords Meadow, Anchor Park and Burrough Farm.
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Transport

NTC

Encourage staff and councillor use of bikes (e.g. Cycle to Work scheme), public transport, walking, and car share. Scheme to encourage use of lower emission vehicles (e.g. as at Torridge) **and more environmentally-aware driving habits**. Change to electric **or other alternative fuel** vehicles for maintenance staff; **Encourage reduction in** staff/councillor travel and **aim to reduce guest travel distance to NTC functions e.g. Mayor's dinner**. Build bike track **at Lord's Meadow** to encourage cycling.

'Encourage' ?

Project	Establish car-sharing scheme for Councillors to attend meetings at Council and elsewhere.
Description	Draw up car sharing scheme to be agreed by participating Councillors and tied in to meeting dates.
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Parish [Update some of this](#)

Encourage walking, biking, bus use in parish (**e.g. publicise footpath route from Northam to Bideford using coastal path – produce a local footpath guide book - delete this as it is now done**), actively push for Kenwith Valley cycle route and investigate funding, (**promote cycle route from bridge to Tarka Trail to link with present cycle route down Heywood Road/Limers Lane/ Chircombe Lane (DELETE this as not feasible)**), encourage/fund bike racks in Westward Ho!, Appledore, Northam car parks and in The Square, Northam; promote car sharing, alternative transport to work places. **Promote alternatives to cars at Northam May Fair.**

Project	Establish a cycle/walking track from Kenwith Valley to Westward Ho!.
Description	Identify route, obtain costings, seek funding, investigate planning permission.
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Project	Install bike racks at Northam Hall, Lords Meadow and Anchor Park. Investigate installation at Seagate car park with agreement of Youngs Brewery.
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Description	Identify positions of racks and get costings
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Energy

NTC

Fit LED bulbs in office and other NTC buildings; paint walls white for reflected light, introduce strict no light policy when strong sunlight through windows; (minimise decorative lighting e.g. Xmas lights (delete this or turn off overnight) sava plugs; work with Torridge to introduce more efficient, low carbon heating at Town Hall and Northam Hall e.g. heat exchanger; draught excluders on windows, thermostats, repair or replace draughty windows in Council chamber, look at lowering ceiling and insulating in Council chamber (e.g. thick curtains); instant hot water units for beverages; low energy computer system, turn off at night; change to renewable energy electricity tariff, purchase or hire lower energy equipment for men at replacement time, investigate solar panels on Town Hall roof, storage and electric vehicle charging point (also at Northam Hall); smart meters in NTC buildings; Skype and Zoom for virtual meetings internally and with other organisations; Community heat pump system based in Lords Meadow. [Thermostats?](#)

Project	Install LED lighting throughout the Town Council part of the building.
Description	
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Project	Install hot water unit in the kitchen/office instead of kettle for beverages
Description	
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Project	Energy conservation measures in Council Chamber (in conjunction with TDC)
Description	Energy saving windows (repair existing?), lower ceiling combined with roof and wall insulation, LED lighting, heat pump for electric heaters, solar energy from roof to be stored by battery.

Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction
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Project	Investigate heat pumps at Northam Hall to replace gas energy.
Description	To reduce carbon emissions from gas
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Parish [Kingsley College action?](#)

Encourage community renewable energy schemes working with Community Energy, **work with local schools** including contributing funding, publish information on insulation schemes and heating subsidies, hold energy reduction exhibition at libraries, halls, schools – put on website; solar for schools (Salix funding?); negotiate **bulk discounts** on insulation and sustainable energy systems for households.

Project	Provide grants to local schools for energy reduction projects
Description	Encourage pupils to come up with the ideas
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Project	Information display at local libraries and schools
Description	Using Council display boards

Planning

NTC

New-builds by Town Council to be carbon neutral (e.g. new workshop)

Parish

Engage with Torridge District Council to ensure that obligation under NPPF to reduce carbon emissions are being met in the Local Plan (Para 2.7 of the NPPF states that the purpose of planning is ‘sustainable development’. Chapter 14, para 148 ‘contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions’, para 149 ‘Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting...in line with the objectives of the Climate Change Act.’). Call for renewable energy provisions and energy efficient buildings as part of planning; push for tree planting for development sites and other biodiversity, oppose destruction of wildlife habitats, identify habitats and corridors in Neighbourhood Plan; water-saving to be incorporated in planning applications. Measures in new builds to cope with future intense rainfall and monsoon-like conditions, to include permeable paving and any play areas, rills around each house, green roofs to absorb excess water, large basin/sinks, sustainable drainage systems (SUDs) should be incorporated (and would provide wildlife habitats as well).

Project	Provide comprehensive environmental measures in the Northam Neighbourhood plan.
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Description	Measures to include promotion of energy efficient new builds and retro fitting of older properties, renewable energy schemes for buildings, water saving measures, public transport integrated with housing development, work places near to homes, electric charging points in new development, bike parking provision, improved footpath networks, retention and increase in biodiversity, protection of 'wild' areas within development zones, protection of wildlife corridors, flood alleviation/protection measures in new builds.
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Food

NTC

Provide non-meat options at Council functions; any waste to go to food bank or recycled; minimise meat consumption at Council functions, promote healthy eating. Create more allotment plots?

Parish

Promote local low carbon emission, organic food production and local food markets.

Project	Identify sites for fruit and nut growing e.g. part of Lords Meadow, Anchor Park, possibly verges.
Description	Plant fruit bushes and trees, hazel.
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Biodiversity

NTC

On Council land plant more trees, sow more wildflowers, minimise grass cutting, and seek environmentally-friendly alternatives to chemical sprays. Employ community gardener to create and maintain areas of biodiversity in the Parish.?? Train maintenance men in biodiversity improvement?

Project	Tree planting at selected areas of Council land i.e. Lords Meadow, Anchor Park and Blackies
Description	
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Parish

Grants for tree planting and wildflower meadows on public grassy areas; leave inner areas of wide verges uncut.

Project	With agreement of County Highways adopt a policy of leaving inner parts of verges uncut to promote biodiversity and reduce fuel use.
Description	
Benefits	Financial Savings Carbon Emissions Reduction

Water

NTC

Install water saving taps and cisterns, water butts; mulch, plant drought-tolerant shrubs in beds, hanging baskets and boats.

Project	Investigate installation of large raised rainwater tank at Northam Hall to gravity fill the water bowsers.
Description	
Benefits	Mains Water Usage Reduction (in cubic metres?)

Parish

Encourage reduction in water use, water saving.

Procurement

Enforce policy of purchasing environmentally sustainable products and services, prioritising local sources and re-use of materials and repair.

Project	Draw up comprehensive environmental / ethical procurement policy Approved?
Description	
Benefits	Carbon Emissions Reduction

Investments

Consider moving Council investments to green accounts and disengaging from funds invested in fossil fuels. Look at Local Government Pension Scheme as an option.

[MORE PROJECTS?](#)

5. Engaging with the Community

In the wider community, the Council aims to work with local people so that the parish as a whole can achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions and facilitate a shift to a more integrated and environmentally-aware way of living.

The Council could engage with the community through such participatory mechanisms as **citizen's assemblies** and open space events and should encourage initiatives which build community co-operation and resilience e.g. social enterprises, development of the local economy, local energy schemes, working with local schools to develop projects.

Northam Town Council also recognises that in the light of damaging carbon levels which have already occurred and will occur there is a need to develop with the community a climate emergency plan to enable greater resilience in the face of more extreme weather conditions. For example, it is predicted that the UK will experience periods of much more intense rainfall and monsoon-like conditions leading to flooding. More severe storm conditions and also periods of drought will also be associated with climate change.

Given the above we propose the following strategy:

1. Hold public meetings in the Parish to set out the aims of the Climate Emergency Plan, the vision and the proposed means of achieving them within the Council and in the community and to take on board the public's responses.. **Hand out/deliver survey forms.**
2. **Engage with all areas of the community and as a result set up an advisory, participatory and all-embracing group** to work with the Council to achieve the target of net zero carbon in the community by 2030.
3. Key elements of the work of such a group would be agreement on the sort of low carbon world which is being aimed for by 2030, generation of ideas for action and ways of achieving objectives, provision of information and communication systems, mapping of networks and organizations and assembly of data regarding resources available in the community.
4. Information on available resources (human and otherwise) will be vital to build up community resilience in the face of likely climate-related events such as flooding, storm damage and drought. Such resilience could be promoted and harnessed through the creation of a Northam Emergency Plan involving the establishment of a community network of volunteers. **Revise NTC Emergency Plan**

6. Carbon Audit

Revise. Get Community Energy Survey done by Energy 361?

To achieve the Council's zero carbon target by 2030 it is necessary to first measure the carbon emissions of the Council in its buildings and activities and then to set yearly targets of carbon reductions. It is generally recommended that emissions reduction should be greater in the earlier years of the Plan.

Regarding carbon emissions in the wider community of Northam parish the Council will draw on available national and local data used by Devon County Council.

1. Council operations and buildings 2018/2019

Target percentage reductions over 11 years

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
%	15	15	15	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6

1. Waste

2. Transport

	Miles	Carbon (kwh)
Councillors		
<i>Claimed</i>	343	30
<i>Meetings?</i>		
Beadle	1,055	90
Staff		
<i>Claimed</i>	1,092	94
<i>Staff/Maint</i>		
<i>Petrol</i>	13,032	1,045
<i>Diesel</i>	2,848	218

3. Energy

	Kwh	Carbon (kwh)
Town Hall*		
Electricity	18,429	1,769
Gas	33,082	1,663
Northam Hall		
Electricity	4,080	392
Gas	3,000	151

(*TDC accounts)

4. Food

5. Investments

6. Procurement

TOTALS

Water in cubic metres?

Biodiversity - percentage increase?

2. Carbon Emissions in Northam Parish

(Pie chart here showing carbon emissions – data to be obtained) [Update](#)

EXAMPLE:

Data below from Stockholm Environment Institute report 2006 (gha is gross hectares indicating ecological footprint per person):

TORRIDGE'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT = 5.17 gha. / per person (national average 5.4 gha /per person; international average 2.2 gha /per person)

Breakdown as follows:

Food and Drink Food and drink purchased for home consumption, alcoholic drinks purchased in a public house, restaurants and other eating out establishments as well as take-aways. 1.05

Energy Domestic fuel including gas, electricity and other fuels such as oil or bio-fuels 0.99

Capital Investment; Investment in tangible fixed assets such as plant and machinery, transport equipment, dwellings and other buildings and structures 0.76

Travel Car fuel, the impact associated with purchasing and maintaining private vehicles and public transport (bus, train, coach, air travel etc.) 0.71

Consumables Includes durables and non-durables items including newspapers, clothing, appliances, glassware, tools, medical products, audio-visual equipment, personal effects etc. 0.55

Government and Other Includes the resources used by national and local government, universities and colleges and balances the Ecological Footprint by taking out overseas tourists in the UK and changes in stocks 0.40

Services Includes private hospital and education, postal, telephone, water supply, recreation, insurance, financial services etc. 0.24

Housing Building, maintenance and repair of dwellings 0.16

Holiday Activities Any consumption by UK residents overseas, from hotel energy requirements to eating out and shopping 0.33

(NB Figures for food, household energy, transport and consumables.)

7. Resources and Sources

Revise/update

Northam Town Council and Torrington District Council are tying in with the climate action plan of **Devon County Council**. More information can be found on <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/strategy/climate-change-strategy>

<https://www.climateemergency.uk/> has many resources including a full list of councils which have declared a Climate Emergency and their targets and motions, some plans, and a Basecamp site for discussion, and sharing resources.

Community Energy England is a not for profit organisation that represents and supports those committed to the community energy sector. Contact info@communityenergyengland.org.

Extinction Rebellion has produced an excellent briefing to make sure that Declarations are meaningful and have teeth. It has sections on energy as well as housing.

Friends of the Earth has a climate action plan for local authorities as part of its Climate Action Groups campaign to mobilise local volunteers around the Climate Emergency planning.

Centre for Sustainable Energy has launched a Climate Emergency Support Programme for local authorities. It is focussing especially on the challenges in two-tier authorities. It is encouraging District Councils to connect with their Town and Parish Council and resourcing those to declare Climate Emergencies and engage their very local communities in solutions that will help the District Council meet their targets.

Green Alliance will be working with three different city councils, to enable the planning process and then to share good practice.

Councillors and council officers can apply to join the **Local Government Association (LGA)** Special Interest group, the Climate Emergency Network, to support Local Authorities in declaring a Climate Emergency and in preparing and implementing plans to achieve carbon neutral status as quickly as possible

Local Energy Hubs have been set up by BEIS to support local energy initiatives. 'Local energy' refers to all energy projects that are led by local organisations (public, private, third sector) for local benefit. All aspects of collective action to reduce, purchase, manage and generate energy are included within 'local energy.' This includes but goes beyond community energy.

Transition Town initiatives have been working on this agenda for many years. Find your local one at <https://transitionnetwork.org/transition-near-me/>

For positive, practical action to reduce carbon emissions an organisation called **Possible** provides advice and action. Contact wearepossible.org/actions.

There are many places in the UK where strong action is being taken to reduce carbon emissions. For example, **Leeds** has a bold plan which can be found on <https://news.leeds.gov.uk/council-approves-plan-to-more-than-halve-carbon-emissions-by-2025/> and a website <https://www.leedsbyexample.co.uk/>

Campaigning locally against single-use plastic is Plastic Free Torridge on <https://www.facebook.com/plasticfreetorridge/>.

361 Energy is based in North Devon and helps to reduce emissions, providing practical advice. Contact on info@361energy.org.

Appendix

Carbon Reduction Plan: **Revise and update. Do spreadsheet**

Year One

Reduce paper waste	Re-use, double side printing, recycled paper, compost shredded paper	March 2020
Improve recycling	Install recycling bins, compost bins at all NTC premises	June 2020
Establish car sharing scheme	Draw up rota agreed by Cllrs for NTC meeting dates	June 2020
Install bike racks	Identify suitable locations and costings for TP meeting	Sept 2020
Install LED lighting	Initially in all areas at Council Offices which are NTC responsibility	April 2020
Install hot water unit	to provide alternative hot water source to replace kettle use	March 2020
Energy conservation at NTC	With TDC to schedule measures to make Council Chamber efficient	Dec 2020
Tree planting	Plant trees in NTC open spaces. Carbon capture.	March 2020
Information displays	At libraries and local schools	October 2020
Verge planting	Identify verges to remain partly uncut/wildflower planting	October 2020
Rain capture at Northam Hall	Use for filling the water bowsers	April 2020

Solar/battery/EV project at Northam Hall!

Year Two

Explore cycle/pedestrian track scheme Kenwith	To link Bideford and Westward Ho!, promoting reduction in car use	March 2021
Investigate heat pumps at Northam Hall	To replace gas which produces carbon emissions	March 2021
Change to environmentally- friendly procurement policy		Jan 2021
Grants/prizes to schools for energy reduction projects		March 2021
Identify sites for fruit and nut growing		Jan 2021

NB All projects to be presented to Town Projects Committee with full costings and carbon reduction figures.

All dates are provisional and indicative only of an intended schedule