

- ✓ Agreed a procurement policy that the Council purchases sustainable products and services when possible.
- ✓ Installed rainwater capture containers at Northam Hall.
- ✓ Planted trees and insect-friendly shrubs at our parks and committed to wild flower sowing and re-wilding on selected verges in Northam area in order to encourage wildlife.
- ✓ Committed to change from using chemical weed control to environmentally-friendly alternatives.

What further action has the Town Council planned?

The Council will continue to pursue further projects aimed at reducing emissions and plans to engage further with the community in this endeavour.

For further information about what Northam Town Council is doing regarding the Climate Emergency please refer to the dedicated page on our website (<https://www.northamtowncouncil.gov.uk>) which includes our Climate Emergency Plan, and the committee pages for minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee and other information.

Northam Town Council welcomes your ideas and information at any time and invite you to email the Council on admin@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk use the messaging facility on the Council's website at www.northamtowncouncil.gov.uk or contact the Council by post at Northam Town Council, Windmill Lane, Northam, EX39 1BY.



FACING UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE



After-effects of a storm at Westward Ho! (below).

Picture: Peter Hames - Credit: Peter Hames.



Storm Ellen brought big waves to Westward Ho! at high tide back in August 2021 (above).

Picture: Graham Hobbs - Credit: Graham Hobbs via North Devon Gazette.

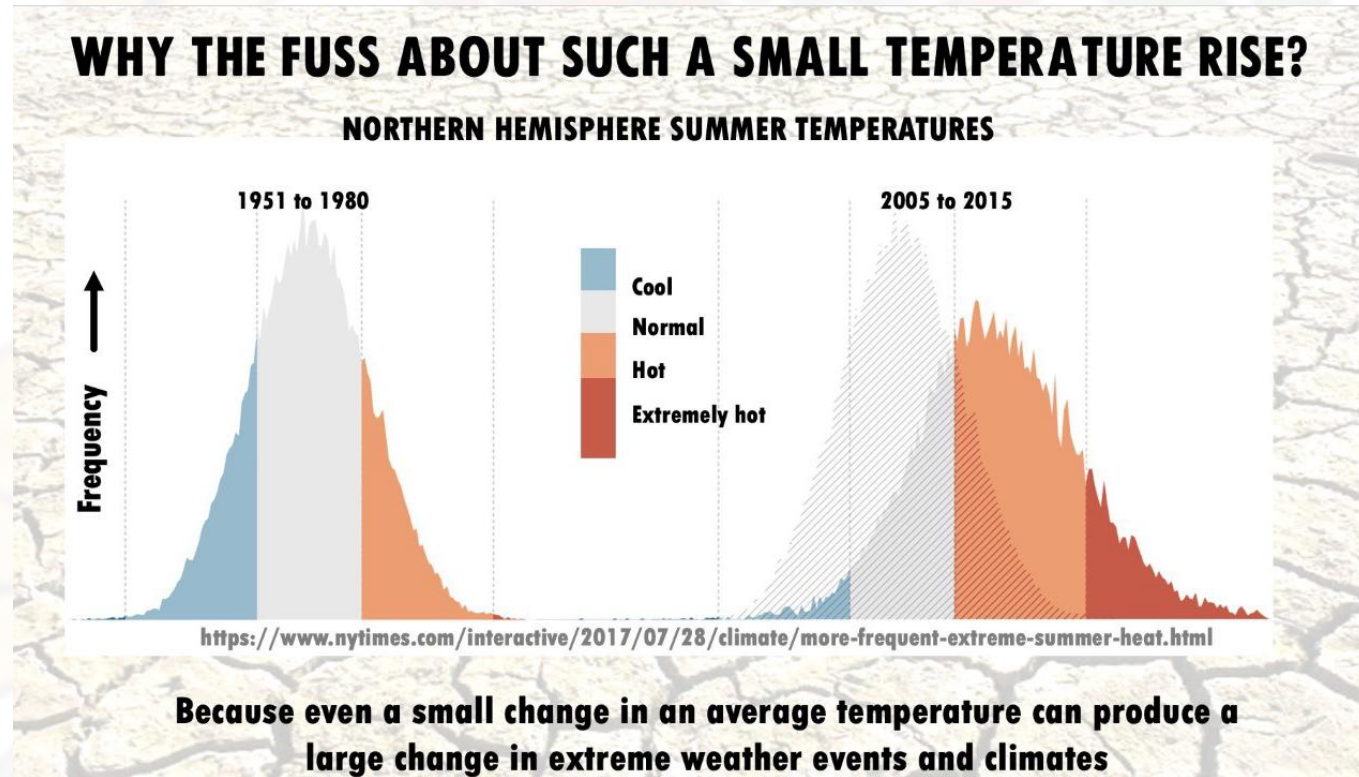
Storms and flooding of our coast and estuary in the Northam area (as shown above at Westward Ho!) is likely to increase in frequency due to sea level rise and heavier rainfall caused by climate change according to the latest Environment Agency projections.

Experts also predict other phenomena caused by climate change, such as much hotter summers and stronger gale or hurricane force winds.

Respected scientific organisations, including the International Panel on Climate Change, have identified the carbon emissions as the cause of increased average global temperatures and consequent global warming. Carbon is emitted when burning fossil fuels (such as oil, coal and gas). Global warming has led to the changes identified above.

Northam Town Council

We are now warned that there is less than a decade to try and stop average temperatures increasing beyond 1.5 degrees.



If the average temperature rises beyond that amount then life on earth will be unbearable. Even if it stays below that increase our lives will be significantly affected by threats to, for example, health, housing and food and water supplies and wildlife will continue to be seriously impacted by loss of habitat.

Recognising this very serious situation, in 2019 Northam Town Council joined with many other councils in the UK and abroad in declaring a Climate Emergency.

This means that the Council has committed to reach net zero carbon emissions across its property and activities by 2030, while also encouraging achievement of that target in the community.

What has Northam Town Council done?

Northam Town Council produced a Climate Emergency Plan and established up a Climate Emergency Committee (which includes members of the public) to implement a raft of measures designed to achieve its net zero target.

So far the Council has fulfilled the following projects:

- ✓ **Commissioned a carbon audit of its property and activities to ascertain what needs to be done to reduce carbon emissions and circulated a community climate survey.**
- ✓ **Committed to installing solar panels and battery storage at Northam Hall, designed to power the Hall's electricity use and future battery powered equipment (e.g. strimmers, leaf blowers, chain saws) and electric vehicles used by the Council's maintenance staff.**
- ✓ **Installed bike racks and recycle bins at the Council's parks (the ones at Lords Meadow are shown on the right).**
- ✓ **Joined an ink cartridge recycling scheme.**
- ✓ **Committed to a policy of no single plastic use at the Council.**
- ✓ **Contributed financially to the preparation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.**
- ✓ **Included climate and wildlife policies in the Council's draft Neighbourhood Plan.**

