



Cyngof Tref Y Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

Y Porth i Gymru | The Gateway to Wales



Policy

Climate change and Welshpool

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1. Introduction

Welshpool Town Council at its Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th February 2019:

- a) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) Take action to improve the Town Councils own practices to reduce our own contribution to Climate Change. A Town Council Action plan to be prepared for approval.

2. Document aim and objective

This document sets out the aims, objectives and policy of Welshpool Town Council With regards to actions to help with the 'Climate Change' issues.

3. The Need

Extreme weather events this last two years have presented severe challenges to transport, agriculture and other services, though what we have experienced in the Welshpool area is almost insignificant compared to many parts of the world.

Unless we act on climate, we collectively face the greatest threat to our local and global environment. According to October's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report, humanity has 12 years to deliver the major actions needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events. It is clear to many of us that we must act locally and globally.

Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom and action to increase our resilience and to prepare for the changes already in the system. Welshpool can play its role in preventing dangerous and extreme weather events.

4. Our inspiration:

Take action to;

- * help move towards Welshpool being a net-zero carbon producer as soon as possible;
- * increase local resilience to climate impacts;
- * maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;

Call on Wales and UK Government to provide the support and resources to make this possible;

Work with other organisations, such as Renew Wales, other Community Councils and Local businesses to help counter climate change;



5. Background Information & links

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

6. Working with others

The Council will seek to work with others (where possible) which might include:

Welshpool Town Council
Powys County Council
Local Council Forum

7. Action Plan and Monitoring

The action plan is attached at appendix A.

The programme to achieve the items listed is noted next to each item.

The Council Strategy and Policy Committee shall receive a report monthly on progress and each other Committee shall consider the actions appertaining to them monthly.

This Policy shall form part of the Annual Report issued in December each year.



APPENDIX A

CLIMATE CHANGE PROPOSED ACTION LIST

No	Activity	Current status	Actions	Current rating
1	Youth lead To involve the youth and take their advice on the activities proposed to help with restricting global warming.	A Youth Council is in place at the High School and Youth Club.	Discussions with the Youth Councils to be held seeking their ideas.	BLUE
2	Change a light Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Use low energy bulbs and light tubes.	Most light bulbs are low energy or LED.	A light bulb audit to be completed and any bulbs needing to be replaced changed.	BLUE
3	Drive less Walk, bike, car-pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Use vehicles less.	Most long distance journeys on Council business are by trains.	Monitor longer journeys for business and report car and rail travel. Avoid any local unnecessary journeys.	BLUE
4	Vehicles Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve your gas mileage. Ensure vehicles regularly serviced.	Vehicles are checked regularly and serviced regularly.	Vehicle tyre checks to be included on report sheets. Try to purchase more environmentally vehicles.	BLUE
5	Recycle more You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.	The Council recycles at the Town Hall and Recreation Grounds.	Review first reducing rubbish and also review recycling practises to ensure all is being done that can be.	BLUE



6	Drinks cups Use bio-degradable cups for Council and Buildings use	Recyclable or reusable cups are in use.	Review if they are the best type of cups to use.	BLUE
7	Water in a bottle Provide a drinking water station to help encourage people using re-usable bottles.	Already provided at the Tourist Information Centre	Consider providing more station points in Town.	BLUE
8	Use less hot water It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by taking shorter and cooler showers and washing your clothes in cold or warm instead of hot water (more than 500 pounds of carbon dioxide saved per year).	Hot water temperatures are set at a lower level but have to meet regulations on health. Day Centre has higher temperatures for safety.	Audit of hot water temperature to be complete and revised as needed.	BLUE
9	Water conservation Save water when possible. Reductions in power used to pump water.	No specifications are taken at this time other than water misers in the public toilets.	Deal with leaks asap. Investigate waterless urinals in public toilets. Push taps in public toilets.	BLUE
10	Insulation Ensure all buildings are as well insulated as possible.	Buildings are insulated where practical. The Town Hall is the most difficult building.	All buildings that can be insulated have been. Consider secondary or double glazing in any houses. Consider insulation strips around external doors.	YELLOW
11	Avoid products with a lot of packaging You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you reduce your garbage by 10 percent.	No specific attention has been given to this subject.	Review how the Council might be able to reduce packaging. Consider giving packaging back to delivery driver.	YELLOW



12	<p>Adjust your thermostat Moving your thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.</p>	Thermostats are set at lower levels where possible.	<p>Review all thermostats to ensure the best energy saving programmes are in place.</p>	YELLOW
13	<p>Plant a tree A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.</p>	A good number of trees have been planted at the top of Red Bank.	<p>Many trees have been planted. Arrange to plant 6 trees per annum. Consider where trees may be planted on Council land and set a programme.</p>	BLUE
14	<p>Turn off electronic devices Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer, when you're not using them, will save you thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.</p>	This this is done but could but improvements in this area could be made.	<p>Introduce a policy at end of the business day to turn all equipment off including lights. Smart meters to be fitted where possible.</p>	YELLOW
15	<p>Solar panels Consider fitting solar panels where practical on council buildings.</p>	No action has been taken on solar panels mainly due to cost.	<p>Investigate how practical it would be to install solar panels on Council buildings and report.</p>	YELLOW
16	<p>Efficient equipment When equipment is renewed to replace with energy efficient products.</p>	This is current policy on replacement equipment.	<p>This action is already in place.</p>	GREEN



17	Renewable Energy Support renewable energy schemes.	The Council recently supported the provision of solar panels in the LDP at Buttington. The Council has invested in renewable energy bonds.	Continue with current policies.	GREEN
20	Publicity Make the public aware of the Council's actions and consider how to promote the global warming issues.	No actions have been taken on this subject.	Prepare and implement a publicity policy.	BLUE
21	Review Review progress every 3 months with a chart showing progress towards completing actions.	All Council plans are reviewed annually.	Review progress every 3 months with the relevant committee and to Full Council.	BLUE
22	Standard To achieve accreditation.	No action to date.	Progress towards gaining accreditation.	YELLOW

KEY: **Red** **Not achievable**
Yellow **To be completed within 12 months**
Blue **To be completed within 3 months**
Green **Completed and to continue**

- This policy is to apply to the Town Council, its companies, Trusts and other organisations under its control.

Adopted March 2019
R A Robinson FRICS FSLCC
Town Clerk

