

# Climate Action Plan for Oakham Town Council

The resolutions: “Oakham Town Council acknowledges and declares a climate emergency, recognising the urgent need to address climate change and biodiversity loss at the local level.” and that “the Environmental working group should now create a climate action plan” were both passed by Oakham Town Council on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

This Climate Action Plan outlines the strategies, goals, and actions that will guide our efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, improve biodiversity and to create a more sustainable and resilient Oakham (Carbon / greenhouse gas emissions taken as interchangeable, and Oakham Town Council is abbreviated to OTC).

## Top level objectives

1. Reduce carbon footprint and improve resilience by reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
2. Assess and develop habitats in order to increase biodiversity.

There are both short- and long-term proposals for which we are seeking Council approval. The short-term actions are proposed ahead of expected contract tenders. The long-term actions are ambitions which will develop based on our assessments.

With all goals and ambitions, it is important to regularly monitor and report progress. We can then adjust strategies and actions based on monitoring outcomes and changing circumstances.

## Short term actions

1. Plan for Oakham Town Council to be net carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Estimate the current carbon output of Oakham Town Council (OTC) and Oakham town as a whole.
3. Commission a comprehensive assessment to understand the sources and magnitude of emissions within OTC.
4. Ensure that OTC uses local suppliers, wherever possible, for the supply of goods and services and considering the potential carbon emissions not just price when awarding contracts.
5. Consider the environmental implications of all council decisions.
6. Research carbon literacy training for the whole OTC team.
7. Engage with and learn from other Town and Parish Councils, Rutland County Council and national government and share expertise, experience and knowledge in the preparation of policies and procedures.
8. Provide regular reports to OTC on progress towards achievement of this Action Plan.

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## Longer term actions

These are subject to change, both in scope and priority following our assessment of our current state.

1. Aim for Oakham to be carbon neutral by 2045.
2. Conduct a comprehensive assessment to understand the sources and magnitude of emissions within Oakham.
3. Identify vulnerable areas and assess potential climate change impacts on local infrastructure, ecosystems, and public health.
4. Seek to improve energy efficiency by investigating renewable energy sources and moving towards being carbon neutral.
5. Promote sustainable transportation and active travel.
6. Work to reduce waste and increase recycling.
7. Protect and enhance biodiversity.
8. Investigate and implement water conservation.
9. Develop collaborative partnerships with others.

By implementing this Climate Action Plan, Oakham Town Council aims to lead the way in creating a happier, more sustainable, and resilient community, as well as setting an example for others and contributing to the global effort to combat climate change.

Together, we can build a thriving Oakham with a better future for our citizens and residents.