



Hexham Net Zero Action Plan

Northumberland County Council's Climate Change Action Plan commits the County to being carbon neutral by 2030. The Town Council is fully behind this ambition. This Sustainability Plan shows how the Town Council will fulfil its role as Climate Champion and work towards Hexham being carbon neutral by 2030.

There are seven categories in the NCC Action Plan. They are:

1. Council Policy
2. Engagement and Partnership
3. Heating Existing Buildings and New Buildings
4. Transport
5. Renewable Energy Generation
6. Natural Resource-Based Carbon Sequestration
7. Reducing Waste

This policy document follows those categories with the addition of 8. Protecting and Enhancing the Biodiversity of Hexham.

The Planning and Infrastructure Committee will consider progress at each meeting and a review will be carried out every six months.

Part One: Town Council Policy						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee / Councillors	Completed
1a	Work towards ensuring sustainability is at the heart of the work of the Town Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring the Neighbourhood Plan's references and guidance regarding sustainability is considered by every committee in all decisions 2. All Councillors act as Climate Champions to further the aims of NCC and the Town Council 	<p>Northumberland reaches carbon neutral status by 2030 or earlier.</p> <p>Hexham reaches carbon neutral status by 2030 or earlier</p>	NCC	All Committees	

Part Two: Engagement and Partnership						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee / Councillors	Completed
2a	As NCC shares its task with the Town Council, so this council will share the task with the residents and businesses of Hexham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Town Council will work with Hexham's climate action and biodiversity groups 2. A series of workshops, fairs and discussions will engage residents and businesses so that all can work towards meeting the targets 3. TC will create a network of groups and individuals to help Hexham reach Net Zero by 2030 	<p>Our policies are well known in Hexham.</p> <p>Our policies are successful and we reach carbon neutral by 2030</p>	<p>The Abbey HCP Climate Action Groups HS4N NCC Residents Businesses</p>	<p>All Committees, but especially P and I</p>	

Part Three: Heating (and Lighting) Existing Buildings and New Buildings						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee / Councillors	Completed
3a	Reduce fossil fuel use on council land and premises	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The carbon footprint of the council will be quantified 2. Investigate installing extra insulation in Town Council Buildings 3. Consider the installation of smart meters in council property 4. Consider installing air source heat pumps in council owned buildings 5. Consider installing solar panels on council property 	Achieve net zero by 2030 or before	NCC	P and I	
3b	Reduce fossil fuel use in Hexham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure the carbon footprint of the town. 2. Research using thermal imaging cameras to detect heat loss 	Carbon use measure is in place		P and I	
3c	Energy consumption is reduced through using energy efficient lighting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hexham becomes a Dark Skies Town with lights out or reduced intensity at Midnight 2. Consider the Abbey floodlights being changed to more environmentally 	Hexham is awarded Dark Skies Status	NCC Abbey	P and I	

		<p>and wildlife friendly LEDs and are shaded to avoid light pollution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Consider replacing some of the existing Winter and Christmas lights with more environmentally and wildlife friendly lighting 4. Campaign for low-level lighting of footpaths 5. HTC adopts an exterior lighting guide 				
3d	New developments are carbon neutral and built to highest ecological standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan are followed 	New developments conform to the highest ecological standards	NCC	P and I	
	Housing stock is fully insulated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider working with NCC and housing providers to obtain grants to retrofit insulation in existing housing stock 	Individual's heating bills are reduced and less heat is lost from homes	NCC Housing providers	P and I	

Part Four: Transport						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee /Councillors	Completed
4a	Seek to create a sustainable transport plan. The plan may look at creating a less traffic dominated town; enhancing the safety of pedestrians, wheel chair users and cyclists; School Streets; parking, car alternatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up a working party and discuss its findings with NCC. 	A sustainable transport plan is produced	Residents of Hexham NCC AcTT	P and I	
4b	Seek to reduce carbon use with Town Council vehicles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider installing electric vehicle charging points for future use by council vehicles 2. Council vehicles are replaced by electrically powered alternatives when available 3. Consider mechanical alternatives to diesel powered Council machines 	Hexham Town Council carbon footprint is reduced	NCC	P and I	
4c	Seek to reduce carbon use by Hexham motorists	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council will encourage community groups in the installation of on street electric vehicle charging points 2. Working in collaboration with neighbouring councils we will try to create a 	Hexham residents' carbon footprint is reduced	NCC AcTT Residents Associations	P and I	

		<p>cycle path from Haydon Bridge, through Hexham to Stocksfield</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Research solar-panelled e-cargo bikes (an existing local project)4. Consider a no-idling campaign for waiting motorists5. Consider encouraging on-drive EV charge point sharing				
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Part Five: Renewable Energy Generation						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee/ Councillors	Completed
5a	To encourage the installation of solar panels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Hexham businesses, institutions and residents to convert their roofs to solar production 2. Investigate solar panel installation at the cemetery 	<p>Panels are installed</p> <p>Fossil fuel consumption is reduced</p>	NCC businesses, residents NCC	P and I	
5b	To encourage hydro electrical production in Hexham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperate with NCC to investigate a hydro-electricity scheme 	Fossil fuel consumption is reduced	NCC		

Part Six: Carbon Sequestration						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee/ Councillors	Completed
6a	To trap carbon in the soil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual bedding to be replaced with closely planted perennials 2. No dig allotments encouraged 		QBAA	CE	
6b	To plant more trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work within HS4N's tree strategy 2. Consider the purchase of land to plant a tree for every resident 	Hexham has more trees	HS4N NCC	P and I	

Part Seven: Reducing Waste

	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee / Councillors	Completed
7a	Eliminate the use of single use plastic by Hexham Town Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out an audit of plastic use within the council office, the cemetery and in the work of the council staff generally 2. Replace all single use plastic with sustainable, Fair Trade and eco-friendly versions e.g. plastic milk bottles with returnable glass 	Audit in place Single use plastic eliminated	Council staff	P and I	
7b	Reduce the use of single use plastic in Hexham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the Reduction of the use of plastic water bottles through working towards reinstating water fountains, providing a new bottle refill-station and encouraging more shops to take up the refill station initiative 	Feasibility study carried out and implemented	NCC Northumbria n Water	P and I	
7c	Help to reduce food waste in homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with NCC to provide cheaper compost bins (see Durham County Council) 	More people make their own compost	NCC	P and I	
7d	Help reduce food waste in allotments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surplus food is regularly collected and donated to Community Grocers and other bodies 	Less waste	Community Grocery, Allotment Association, Grow	CE	

				Hexham, Transition Tynedale and Edible Hexham		
7e	Gardens are brought into food production	1. Grow Hexham links garden owners with gardeners	Crops shared and surplus donated to Community grocers	Grow Hexham	CE	
7f	Council will encourage the reduce, reuse, repurpose, initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council will consider negotiating with NCC / Suez regarding a Community Interest Company taking items from the Hexham Waste Disposal Facility to repurpose, mend and reuse. 2. Consider publicising a list of recycling opportunities within Hexham 3. Consider the setting up of a repair café and a Library of Things 	More items are reclaimed from the prospect of incineration or landfill	NCC Residents of Hexham	CE	

Part Eight: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity						
	Objective	Steps to be taken	Success criteria	Main partners	Committee	Completed
8a	The cemetery's biodiversity is enhanced	1. Create and follow a new management plan for the cemetery.	Surveys show increased biodiversity	Hexham Space for Nature, Hexham in Bloom, Council Staff	P and I CE	
8b	Other Council managed land has increased levels of biodiversity	1. Create and follow a biodiversity plan for green spaces and play areas	Surveys show increased biodiversity	Hexham Space for Nature Council Staff	P and I	
8c	New developments have appropriate plans for biodiversity enhancement	1. Town Council produces a "Landscape Design Guide" for developers to follow	New developments follow the guidelines	Council Staff Hexham in Bloom A professional landscape designer	P and I	
8d	More people take up allotments	1. More allotment space is found	HTC has more allotments		P and I	
8f	Wildflowers are encouraged to grow in Hexham	1. HTC will support Hexham Hoedown	NCC reduces the use of chemical weedkillers	Hexham Hoedown NCC	P and I	