

Climate Action Plan

Littleham and Landcross

3rd DRAFT 28th August 2021

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1. Background

In the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC warn that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The IPCC stress the importance of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. On 9th August, 2021 the IPCC released a further [report](#) suggesting that many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible but keeping to 1.5°C is not yet impossible. They warn that we require rapid and large-scale reductions in emissions and that each tonne of carbon increases the impact and risks of extreme heat, floods and droughts. The UK Government have accepted this report and the [Climate Change Committee](#) have produced a stark assessment of [climate risk](#).

The Secretary-General of the United Nations described the findings of this report as "Code Red for Humanity". International efforts are now focused on the "Cop26" Climate Conference hosted by the UK, to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, the outcome of which is crucial if we are to avoid catastrophe in the near future.

Global warming and its consequences will affect every one of us. We have already experienced extreme heat in North Devon in July 2021, triggering an unprecedented amber warning from the Met Office.

Informed and active leadership is now required from public authorities across the UK at every level, from national government to parish councils and community groups.

1.1.Devon County Council

In February 2019 Devon County Council agreed to declare a climate emergency and following this, a range of public, private and voluntary organisations from across Devon came together in May 2019 to form the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#), to declare a climate and ecological emergency and to endorse the principles of the [Devon Climate Declaration](#). This recognises awareness of the significant implications of climate change for Devon’s communities and the [Net-Zero Task Force](#) are developing a [Devon Carbon Plan](#) . Additionally, it recognises an understanding of the current and future risks of climate change for Devon and that communities will have to adapt to a warmer world. This work is being taken forward by the [Climate Impacts Group](#).

1.2.Torridge District Council

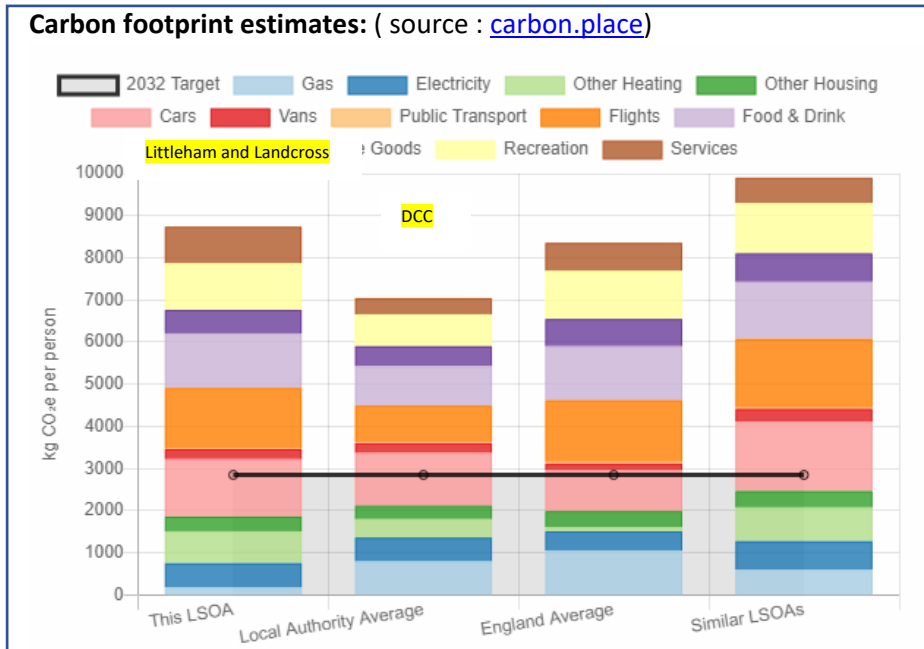
In July 2019 [Torridge District Council](#) declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ in recognition of the need to take urgent action and in June 2021 published its Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan to work toward a target of net zero by 2030.

1.3.Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

In August 2021, the Parish Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. It agreed to work with Climate Action Littleham and Landcross (CALL) to develop a Climate and Ecological Action Plan, setting out the actions it can take as a Parish Council. This document sets out the actions that Littleham and Landcross Parish Council is committed to in order to reduce its own carbon footprint, and to support initiatives in the wider community to help mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change in the Parish and to improve biodiversity.

2. Where are we now?

The UK [average carbon footprint](#) (tonnes of CO₂ per person per year) estimates range from [9.84](#) tonnes to [12.7](#) tonnes. The current carbon footprint of Littleham and Landcross residents is estimated at 8.74 tonnes of CO₂ per person on [carbon.place](#) which uses detailed data from the 2011 census, EPCs and other recent government data.



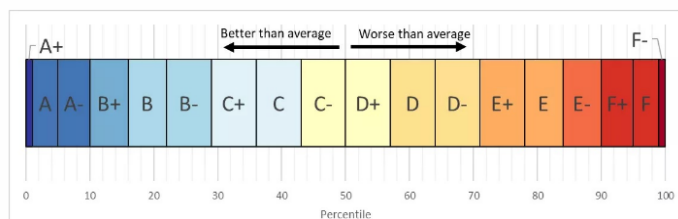
The first column (This LSOA) is Littleham and the graph shows that we are above the DCC average of 7 tonnes CO₂ per person per year. The target (solid line on graph) for 2032 is around 3 tonnes CO₂ per person per year, which means a significant reduction for the Parish.

Littleham and Landcross detail: (source : [carbon.place](#))

Overall Carbon Footprint

Name	Grade	kgCO ₂ e per person
Total	D	8740
Electricity	E-	577
Gas	A	180
Other Heating	F	756
Car Driving	E	1360
Van Driving	E-	238
Flights	D+	1440
Consumption of goods and services	D	4180

Understanding the grades



The figures show we are grade **A** (i.e. better than average) for use of gas, but this is an anomaly of the calculation which is based on the absolute amount of gas used and takes no account of whether mains gas is actually present in a community. The **F** rating for 'other heating' is likely due to the reliance on oil fueled systems. The low rating for transport reflects the rural nature of the parish and minimal public transport.

3. Where do we want to get to?

The UK's CO₂ emissions are falling, due mainly to a reduction in coal use, which has declined by [80%](#) in the last decade, but the Committee on Climate Change (the UK's official climate advisory body) has suggested that UK's targets over the next decade are likely to be insufficient.

Community action is crucial when every tonne of CO₂ matters and thinking about the effects of climate change is not a new phenomena in the Parish. The [Littleham and Landcross Parish Plan](#) in 2006 stated 'climate change is already happening' and suggested an action plan and timeframe for the Parish which included many items which are relevant today:

- Encourage traditional maintenance of hedges and banks
- Encourage use of footpaths
- Reduce speed of traffic through the villages
- Encourage use of public transport
- Investigate possible improvements in bus service

The plan also speculated on a small wind turbine and solar panels for the village hall, and a tidal turbine scheme at Landcross. At this time other local communities in the UK were starting down a path of carbon neutrality, with the best example being [Ashton Hayes](#) in Cheshire.

The 2032 target on [carbon.place](#) of around 3 tonnes CO₂ per person per year is ambitious and based on total ratings of surrounding areas, we should aspire to reach at least level C- (the lowest "above average" rating) in the next 2 years; and at least level C+ in the next 5 years

To reach this target, the carbon footprint data suggests that our community needs to address all areas urgently :

- **electricity consumption**
- **heating (i.e. moving away from fossil fuel based heating)**
- **consumption of goods and services**
- **transport.**

In addition, the threats to biodiversity must also be addressed.

4. How do we get there?

These can be divided into things that can be initiated immediately at no cost by the Parish Council and actions that could be taken by the community in both short and medium terms.

Community engagement is essential and immediate consideration should be given as to how this can be successfully achieved.

4.1.Short term actions

4.1.1.Parish Council

- Pledge to support DCC and TDC in their target for the Parish to achieve net zero by 2030
- Sign the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve Nature Recovery Declaration and actively support the Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan.
- Actively work to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle; minimize printing for council business and where this is essential use recycled paper and recycle all waste.
- All Councillors to commit to minimizing the impact of their activities on the environment and to lead by example.
- Consider carbon emissions, sustainability and design in all new building development / refurbishment proposals in the Parish when commenting on planning applications e.g. maximum building energy performance standards and renewable energy and impact of developments on agricultural / other greenfield land.
- Ensure that maintenance of footpaths, verges and public areas supports an increase in biodiversity (less money spent on unnecessary grass-cutting could release funds for improving biodiversity)
- Review the Council's current communication strategy on sharing information with households and businesses in the Parish. Use appropriate channels e.g. website, Facebook, Crosslet, public notice boards to promote environmental initiatives and events which raise awareness.
- Investigate availability of grants and other funding from TDC/DCC/Government and other sources to enable projects which will reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Parish.
- PC Bank Account: If relevant, switch to a bank that does not invest in fossil fuels.

4.1.2.Community

The Parish Council is committed to supporting initiatives in the Parish to help mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and these are examples of actions that could be taken by the community.

Reducing energy demand

Encourage people to:

- switch to green energy which shows suppliers that there is a demand for renewable energy and that you wish to avoid electricity generated from fossil fuels . The [Energy Saving Trust](#)

has a guide to the greenest suppliers and recommend suppliers who clearly identify their renewable sources.

- book a free Home [Energy Efficiency Review](#) with 361 Energy
- use a carbon footprint calculator e.g. [carbon independent](#) , [WWF](#), [Carbon Savvy](#), to estimate carbon emissions and follow some easy steps to [reduce your carbon footprint](#)
- become a [member of 361 Energy](#) to get regular practical tips on reducing your carbon footprint
- switch all lighting to LED to save energy
- get a smart meter and monitor your energy use

Moving around

Encourage people to:

- fly less – use the train instead when possible, especially within the UK and Europe
- car share or cycle or walk
- Cycle for utility purposes rather than just as a means of exercise
- use the bus for local trips when possible and campaign for increased bus services

Biodiversity

Encourage people to:

- be part of the community helping nature thrive in North Devon and sign up to the North [Devon Biosphere Pledge for Nature](#)
- review and adapt garden maintenance– e.g. cut your grass less often, leave wild patches and pledge to “no-mow May”; planting for pollinators; never use herbicides or insecticides; don’t have bonfires (TDC green bin pick up will need to be addressed); install nest-boxes for birds, log-piles for insects, access routes for hedgehogs etc; don’t use peat based composts. Go to [Devon Wildlife Trust](#) for ideas.
- Sign up to the Parish Biodiversity Group

Other actions

- Repair, Re-use, Recycle . As everything we buy generates emissions, buy less and when you do buy choose second -hand or purchase from sustainable retailers. Ask yourself: do you really need it? Who made it? Where was it made? How is it transported?
- Switch to a bank that doesn’t invest in fossil fuels e.g Co-op, Nationwide or Triodos
- Food – consider what you eat and where it comes from. Studies show that meat and dairy are the most environmentally damaging food types, so eat less meat and dairy, and when you do, try to eat locally produced and naturally fed
- Cleaning and other household products – choose recycled and eco-friendly
- Get involved in the local climate action group in Littleham and Landcross (CALL)

4.2. Medium and longer-term actions

4.2.1. Parish Council

- Engage with other Parish Councils, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council to promote policies, legislation and projects to combat the impact of climate change, acting on behalf of the parish community.
- Link with other organisations to share expertise, experience and knowledge and support community projects focusing on the reduction or mitigation of carbon emissions in the Parish, providing small funding if appropriate.

4.2.2. Community

These are examples of actions that could be taken by the community and they could be kick started by organizing a series of practical talks on climate action and increasing biodiversity from, for example, DWT, 361 Energy etc. for example 'Gardening for wildlife'

Reducing energy demand and producing clean energy

Littleham and Landcross has a large number of solar PV panels installed (each pin represents panels)



and several installations of heat pumps. A Google Earth survey shows that we already produce around 150kW of electricity from Solar PV panels in the parish. There are no wind turbines in the parish and little solar thermal.

- Encourage people to replace oil or gas boilers with an [ecoheating system](#) e.g. air or ground source heat pump
- Explore the possibility of a small wind turbine and/or solar PV at the village hall
- Explore the feasibility of electric charging points for cars at in the village

Moving around

- Install a bicycle rack at the village hall
- Produce a leaflet of walks around Littleham and Landcross to promote walking

Biodiversity

- Work with local farmers to increase biodiversity, particularly in relation to hedgerows and field borders
- Update the 2009 Parish biodiversity survey
- Encourage people in the community to record species found in the parish. These could be recorded on the website, or apps such as [iNaturalist](#). Make a special effort to engage families with young children in this activity.
- Tree planting: approach Playing Field committee to extend area of trees in the playing field. Any Ash planted should be removed due to ash dieback. These can be replaced with trees from Devon Wildlife Trust tree nursery. DWT are keen to have more Devon Whitebeams and it was suggested these could be planted as specimen trees.
- Consider allocating a separate area of the Playing Field as a wildflower meadow
- Identify ancient, veteran and notable trees in the parish and record them on the Woodland Trust [Ancient Tree Inventory](#). These trees are an important haven for wildlife.

Other actions

- Produce a CALL leaflet which is distributed to all Littleham and Landcross residents outlining CALL aims and events, and provide a link to download it from the Littleham & Landcross website

This document has been produced by CALL, August 2021. Contact details for comments and further suggestions:

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