

EAST FARNDON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

Background

There is now international scientific consensus on the fact that carbon emissions (alongside other greenhouse gases) are causing climate change.

A strategy was launched in March 2022 by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), intended to deliver sustainability across West Northamptonshire. The decision was taken to use the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for sustainability, which were adopted by the UN in September 2015 and will be due for review in 2030. In conjunction with the strategy, WNC announced three Foundation Pledges:

- Net Zero own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045.
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants.
- Ensure all WNC strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the UN SDGs.

In January 2023, East Farndon Parish Council unanimously declared a Climate Change Emergency, and it agreed to adopt its own Climate Action Plan setting out the actions it can take as a Parish Council.

East Farndon Parish Council has already taken actions to combat Climate Change including:

- Switching to a green energy supplier for all Parish Council-run streetlighting.
- Installing LED/low energy bulbs in all Parish Council-run streetlights.
- Implementing a partial dark skies policy for streetlighting.
- Adopting a biodiversity policy and action plan.
- Reducing the mowing of verges by WNC to encourage biodiversity.
- Encouraging the planting of trees and wildflowers.
- Appointing a Parish Councillor as a Climate Action Lead, who is responsible for monitoring Climate Action initiatives and communications, and advising the Parish Council accordingly.

Policy Statement

East Farndon Parish Council will continue to consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

- The impact that operating its assets has on the environment.
- The impact that the goods and services it procures, including where practicable, the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
- Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives.
- The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.
- The environmental benefit to be gained by embracing new technology where appropriate within its areas of activity.

Aims

In all its activities, East Farndon Parish Council will aim to:

- Minimise the consumption of all unsustainable resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities.
- Seek, wherever possible, to use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice examples.
- Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

Actions

East Farndon Parish Council will strive to:

- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
- Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing.
- Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
- Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources.
- Respect, protect and enhance where possible, natural resources by practising conservation and good management.
- Require, where practicable, contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- Require its Councillors and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required to incorporate up to date national legislation, local authority policy, and emerging technology.