



OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CARBON NEUTRAL STRATEGY

2021-2030

Offa Community Council resolve that by 2030 choosing carbon zero will be routine, culturally embedded and self regulating within council policy and actions.

Offa Community Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency.

The climate emergency is one of the most important topics of our time and one we must all address urgently. The Welsh Government has declared a climate Emergency in Wales and has set ambitious plans for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030

Wrexham County Borough is looking for ways to play its part in being a globally responsible Wales. The Council is confident that decisions they take in how they contribute to this will have the best interests of the County Borough. They intend to ensure that they constantly consult with local people. Over the last decade they have been working on a wealth of carbon reduction initiatives and have established a reputation for being a leader in delivering carbon saving initiatives.

Since declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in September 2019 Wrexham Council has formed a Carbon Project Board – this board has been tasked with developing its decarbonisation plan. The plan's aim is to target the decarbonisation of council operations and promote the protection and enhancement of our natural environment working with a range of partners.

Offa Community Council fully supports the work of the County Borough Council and acknowledges that action is required by all of us to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our community, our country and our planet. Whilst we may like to think the worst impacts are far away, we are already seeing some effects close to home, with intense heatwaves, heavy rainfall and flooding and more frequent moorland fires. Globally, these extremes are causing large scale flooding, crop failures and droughts, increasingly leading to massive people migrations, collapse of societies, mass starvations and millions of species threatened with extinction. These conditions are only predicted to get worse, threatening the futures of our children and grandchildren. Our best hope of securing our future is to take action now.

How much carbon are we all producing?

According to the Welsh Assembly Research Unit (2007) the average carbon emissions of the people in Wales was 14.2 tonnes per individual per year. This is the highest in the UK and 12th Highest in the World. Offa Community Council believes that this figure will have increased since this last analysis.

Offa's role in context

Offa is a small Community Council; its influence is limited in what it can do to reduce carbon emissions. However, from small acorns great Oaks can grow and the Carbon challenge is all about everyone playing their part. Offa Community Council wants to play its small part in reducing our carbon footprint working with all our residents and partners.

Offa Community Council has 18 members; all 18 are committed to work within their Council and home environments to try and reduce their personal carbon footprint. In the first instance, the Community Council will investigate thoroughly to establish our baseline figures of emissions and to set ourselves targets for the coming years. Our target aspiration is to reduce Members' carbon emissions by one tonne per year. This would see an annual overall reduction of 18 tonnes of carbon. Imagine if all the people in Offa worked to the same target!

Currently (2021 data) there are nearly 8,000 Offa constituents on the electoral register. If everyone aimed for a one tonne reduction then this could see an overall reduction of up to 8,000 tonnes each year. If this was then taken up by the whole of the population of Wrexham then together we are making a real impact on climate change.

How we have devised our Strategy

The Council wants to work towards complying with the Welsh Government guidance; – ***A Route map for Decarbonisation across the Welsh Public Sector*** and to support the recently released and approved ***County Borough Council's Decarbonisation Plan 2021-2030***.

The Community Council aims to work with Environmental champions and professionals across our area and if necessary beyond in order to achieve the aims within our strategy.

Our Strategy

Offa Community Council acknowledges that it is on a journey to net zero and will plan over the short, medium and long term to achieve the vision.

The Welsh Government's Route Map for Decarbonisation across the Welsh Public Sector priority areas for Action are:



It is the intention of the Community Council to adopt the four key areas and work within them.

Buildings

Planning, Policy and Place Shaping

How will we support the Council and others in their goals?

Operational Estate Decarbonisation

In our three community centres how will we

- conserve energy
- plan for replacing boilers
- communicate with users about energy saving
- insulate?

Warm Homes and Green Homes

How will we work with our advice services to promote energy saving and help direct people to energy grant schemes?

Community Agent

How will we ensure training covers understanding of environmental issues so that our Community Agent can assist others at home with saving energy?

Mobility and Transport

Councillors travelling to meetings

How many of us use cars?

Can we reduce our emissions footprint by walking, cycling or sharing cars?

Procurement

Recycling

What do we aim to achieve over the next 9 years by

- working jointly with our community
- using recyclable materials
- working towards being plastic free?

Support our Communities

Can we fairly award grants by

- awarding to community green projects
- awarding extra grant allowances to those who demonstrate their commitment to energy schemes?

LED Street Lighting

How will we promote and encourage low energy output street lighting?

Workplace Initiatives

Can we work with partners who promote environmental schemes?

Play Areas

Where do we source our play equipment?

Can we ensure play equipment is recyclable at end of life?

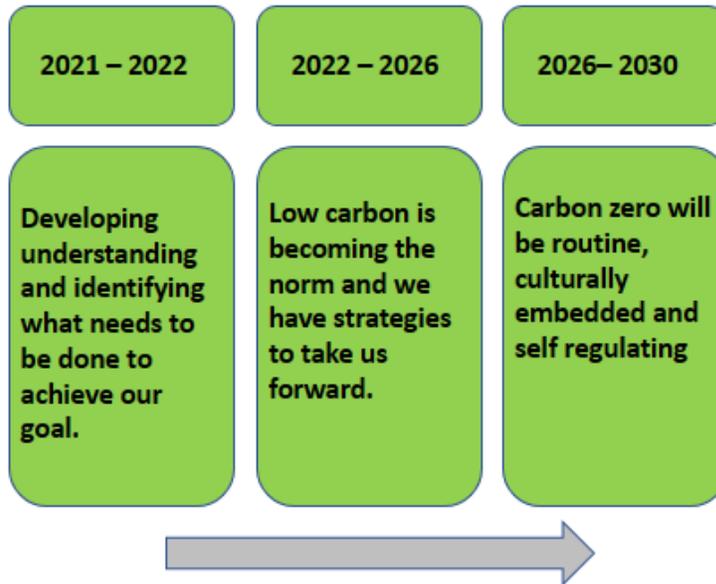
Land use

Tree Planting and Land Management

How do we plan for

- using our green open spaces
- ensuring appropriate land-use through our planning responsibilities
- plan for tree and woodland planting?

The journey to net carbon



Zero Carbon Action Plan for 2021-2022

Identified area of need	Action needed	Personnel involved	Date completed
Understanding how the community council impacts the environment in terms of our emissions footprint	Councillors to attend relevant training to raise awareness	All councillors All council employees	
	Begin to identify areas where action is needed to reduce our carbon footprint	All councillors	

This action plan ends on 31st March 2022. By this date, training and awareness sessions will have been undertaken by staff and councillors and councillors will have reviewed the questions posed in the key areas of the strategy.

Further actions will be populated after the May 2022 elections.