

Supporting Somerset to become Carbon Neutral by 2030

We should be under no illusions. Unless we make systemic changes we are looking at food shortages, flooding of coastal cities and mass migration in 30 - 40 years.

The science is clear, as the recent IPCC reports confirms: to have a chance of stopping climate change we need zero emissions in the UK by 2030 or around 11 years.

The task ahead is overwhelming to say the least and the response is often 'what difference can I make when other nations are causing so much damage to the environment?'

The answer is if we all make small changes then we are moving in the right direction. Somerset is particularly vulnerable and is set to lose a huge land mass to rises in water level should the expected rise in temperatures exceed the projected 1.5 degrees

Things we can do as a Parish Council to start the ball rolling:

Add a Climate Change page to PC website, also signposting to Somerset's web page

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/>

Consider 'wilding' areas that are normally mown

Consider planting trees

Encourage energy audit of PC assets War Memorial Hall & Pavilion, there may be grant opportunities for heat pump heating systems and solar panel installations for electricity and hot water

Add 'climate implications' to all PC decision making

Encourage Councillors to attend meetings by walking / cycling where possible

Promote walking and cycling. As a PC we have been proactive by appointing a footpath liaison officer who is doing an excellent job of keeping our footpaths open and clear

Applications are currently open for grants for Climate Change projects, this will need further discussion, grant criteria as follows:

Small projects that support climate change and ecological objectives in Mendip. Projects that demonstrate collaborative working and wider benefits across parishes, towns and localities will be considered favourably.

Funded projects will be required to have a significant impact on net-carbon emissions and/or ecological benefits in the community. Projects are likely to have community co-benefits but will be judged on the contribution towards the MDC-declared 2030 Climate Emergency target.

Large impacts for longer timeframes are favoured, though all appropriate projects will be considered. Suitable areas for projects include transport (greater use of active or public transport, lessening need for cars), renewable energy, energy efficiency of buildings, low carbon economy, reduced waste (e.g. repair and share), food and land use (sustainable food production, tree planting), education and information.