

Climate Plan

1 Background

Matlock Town Council declared a Climate Emergency on 17th June 2019, based on the following motion:

That Matlock Town Council declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commits the Council to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. They also wish to encourage and support Matlock in this goal. This will ensure that our Town does its part to keep global warming less than 1.5 degrees.

The first step undertaken was to set up a Climate Change Working Group, to look at the activities of the Council. The Council could not secure a carbon neutral town, but did endeavour to do what it could to make the town as a whole carbon neutral, which will involve getting other citizens of the town to change behaviour.

Using work from other local authorities, we highlighted key areas for MTC's consideration. These are:

- shift to very low or zero carbon electricity generation, mostly renewable and much of it decentralised;
- more flexible management of electricity demand, including storage, to enable higher penetration of variable renewable generation and to optimise electricity system operation;
- reductions in energy demand by improving significantly the energy performance of our buildings (across all sectors and all tenures) and the equipment and processes within them;
- decarbonise heat (i.e. stop relying on fossil fuel, gas and oil) for buildings, hot water and industrial processes;
- cut the carbon emissions of road transport by switching to walking, cycling, efficient mass transport (not powered by fossil fuels) and a huge rise in the use of electric vehicles;
- ensuring new build developments achieve their full low carbon potential and contribute effectively to a smarter energy system;
- reducing in emissions from agricultural food production and land use
- reduction in the generation of waste and a dramatic increase in low carbon means of dealing with waste;
- increasing the capture of carbon through tree planting and land management.

In July 2019, we held a public meeting to find ideas for solutions based on the above topics. This attracted residents of the town, who contributed many suggestions. This led to the development of a group of residents and councillors who looked at working together to make the larger changes required by the town as a whole. This paper is Matlock Town Council's plan to reduce its emissions and to support the Matlock community in reducing its emissions.

2 Policy context

Derbyshire County Council has prepared a framework, the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework, to be rolled out across all the authorities within Derbyshire with a view to

directing how all public authorities will engage with the wider community in relation to climate change issues. It is proposed that MTC adopts this Framework. A copy is attached as an annex.

Section 3.3 of this Framework sets a projection for emission reduction to 2050 for Derbyshire, which entails a marked and immediate reduction in emissions and leads to urgency in taking action. The projection specifies an overall reduction in annual emissions from 2016 of 63.6% by 2025, and 83.4% by 2030. The Derbyshire councils can do their bit by aiming to hit zero emissions by 2030.

Section 5.1 of this Framework sets out the relevant policies etc, delivery partners and other relevant plans and policies.

Section 6 sets out key strategies that MTC will need to work within including:

- The Derbyshire Energy Strategy (2020 – 2030)
- Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2019-2029)
- Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2026)
- Dealing with Derbyshire's Waste (2013-2026)
- Health and Wellbeing Board Air Quality Strategy (2020-2030)
- Natural Capital Strategy (2020-2030)

The Framework also discusses carbon offsetting and modelling carbon budgets.

Derbyshire Dales District Council is planning to focus on its own carbon footprint with its wider impact addressed primarily through regulation and planning policy within its powers. To this end it is anticipating a Special Planning Document focused on climate change issues.

3 Plan

3.1 Aims

1. Matlock Town Council to be neutral with respect to its impact on the climate by 2030.
2. Matlock town emissions to be neutral in line with Government policy by 2050 at the latest and ideally before that and to reduce each year in line with the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework projections, through actions taken by individuals, businesses and other organisations facilitated, promoted and supported in part by MTC.

3.2 Actions

The actions have two strands, the first having a Matlock Town Council focus to achieve the first aim, the second to work with others to deliver on the second aim.

3.2.1 MTC focus

Matlock Town Council's carbon footprint can be considered to arise from:

- Events, and in particular the Victorian Market
- Buildings, principally the Imperial Rooms
- The vehicle and other transport used
- Open spaces managed by MTC
- Outdoor operations
- Indoor operations

The carbon footprint arises directly from fuel used in each of these and indirectly through the plant, machinery and services bought in.

Our plan is to undertake the following actions.

2020-21: Identify and prioritise carbon reduction projects; achieve quick wins.

1. Audit Matlock Town Council's carbon footprint in each of the above areas
2. Set a carbon budget for 2021 onwards consistent with the DCC Framework
3. Identify mechanisms for reducing and eliminating the carbon footprint of each area by 2030, including quick wins.
4. Evaluate options based on criteria including feasibility, effectiveness, timeliness and cost. For example, migration to renewable electricity contracts would be feasible, since they are available, effective, can be undertaken rapidly within the time period, but may incur an additional cost.
5. Prioritise options taking account of the outcome of the evaluation and Council resources and overall cost.
6. Define an implementation programme specifying projects including objectives, milestones (including timing), expected outcome, anticipated approach to be followed and resource requirements.
7. Implement quick wins: See annex and in addition
 - a. Regarding the Victorian Market and other events: Identify actions that may be taken immediately, and implement those actions including for example: waste recycling and minimisation of air pollution
 - b. Move to a energy provider that provides 100% renewable electricity

2021 – 2024: Implement the projects arising in the first three years.

1. Implement projects from (6) above scheduled for the time period.
2. Review the implementation programme each year and modify as necessary.

For the whole period

1. Continually monitor, audit and evaluate progress on the action plan.
2. Institute an awareness campaign through the website, newsletter and social media about the activities being undertaken by MTC and external bodies in Matlock potentially with case studies from elsewhere.
3. Attend Climate Summits and other meetings when invited by Derbyshire County Council

3.2.2 Matlock area focus

1. Hold a quarterly People's Forum (a public workshop) to report on MTC's progress in reducing its own carbon footprint and to receive reports of the external projects facilitated or supported by MTC. The first of these was held last year. The second is scheduled for the morning of the 18th April subject to approval of this plan.
2. Identify opportunities where MTC can usefully facilitate and support the community in achieving the projections in the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework. These may be projects that can be undertaken by individuals, businesses or community organisations.
3. Identify external parties that can initiate and manage projects associated with these opportunities. These may be community organisations or individual businesses.
4. Assess how MTC's role in each project and, subject to approval by Council agree with external bodies.
5. Hold a meeting every two months with the relevant external parties to review the progress with each opportunity.

4 Governance

Overall authority to proceed is vested in Council. The Working Group's role is to bring proposals to Council for review and approval. Action is then taken by MTC in accordance with the approval given.

Reporting to Council follows from this vesting of authority in the Council and will include the following.

1. Report to Council on completion of each stage in the identification and prioritisation of the carbon reduction projects during 2020-21 to receive the assessment, and approve the evaluation of options, prioritisation of options and the subsequent implementation programme.
2. Request approval from Council for detailed plans and subsequent decisions arising from individual projects during 2021-24.
3. Request approval from Council for any revisions to the implementation programme during 2021-24.
4. Request approval from Council on MTC roles in external projects.
5. Provide a quarterly report on progress against the plan.
6. Provide an annual report on achievements in the previous year to be presented at the May Council meeting.

5 Collaboration

MTC will act in the context of policy, regulation and initiatives set at international, national government, Derbyshire County Council, and Derbyshire Dales District Council levels. In this respect, MTC will seek to collaborate with DDDC and Derbyshire County Council to ensure consistency and to avoid duplication in actions taken at the different levels.

6 Officer resource

MTC has provided an officer part time to support the Working Group. The officer's role is to support the working group in assembling meeting agendas, undertaking research associated with particular initiatives, to track progress, to liaise with external parties as appropriate and to minute meetings that take place.

The work, particularly in research, will be highly constrained by the availability of time from the officer charged with the role. Therefore, the estimate of the level of resource will be a compromise based on officers' overall availability given other responsibilities. At this stage the proposal is for an officer to be available one day a week to support the Working Group (i.e. 40% of an FTE).

Annex 1: Progress Report: Matlock Town Council Climate Change Action Plan January 2020

Annex 2: Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework