

SOUTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2019

The Town Council is committed to transforming Southwell into a cleaner, greener town making it a more pleasant place to live and work for everyone. The objective is to encourage Southwell to become a zero-carbon town by 2030 - with a high quality built and natural environment as well as a healthy and active population.

A. Strategic Action

A.1. Southwell Town Council notes that:

1. Local Government has a role to play in responding to the Climate Change Act; [ref i];
2. 205 UK Councils have declared a climate emergency and radical action, [ref. ii];
3. Southwell's position as a national tourist destination puts us in an influential position;

A.2. Southwell Town Council agrees to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency' and communicate this widely;
2. Ensure that all Council policy proposals consider the impacts of climate change and its mitigation;
3. Investigate funding opportunities for action to improve environmental performance;
4. Take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of Southwell Town Council's practices and policies;
5. Lobby all relevant bodies to ensure that all development in Southwell includes measures to minimise environmental emissions;
6. Lobby for improved and integrated public transport;
7. Work with our residents, businesses, organisations and environmental groups to raise awareness and change behaviours;
8. Develop a communication strategy to convey to the community the severity of the situation;
9. Adopt ethical purchasing and investment practices

B. Southwell Town Council will focus on SMART Goals [ref iii] for the following:

B.1. Becoming a Zero Carbon Council by:

1. Reviewing the environmental performance of our land and properties and improving them;
2. Using "green" electricity in council property;
3. Minimising energy and water usage across the Council's estate;
4. Supporting the adoption of sustainable technologies where possible;
5. Optimising the fuel used by vehicles on Council business;
6. Replacing our vehicles with ULEV ones as soon as economically possible;
7. Reducing waste, recycling where possible and minimising the use of paper and single-use plastics in our work;

B.2. A Quality Built and Natural Environment by:

This Policy was adopted by Southwell Town Council on: 16th October 2019

References:

- i. <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/half-of-uk-local-authorities-declare-a-climate-emergency-in-just-eight-months/>,
- ii. The Climate Change Act – Friends of the Earth led the campaign that created a framework for reducing the UK's carbon emissions.
- iii. SMART = Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Responsibility, Time-based

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1. Revising the Southwell Neighbourhood Plan **to set** higher energy requirements than those currently contained within Part L of the Building Regulations for new houses, extensions, conversions and changes of use as advised by the Committee on Climate Change;
2. Enhancing the quality, extent and accessibility of Southwell 's open space including re-wilding appropriate areas;
3. Reviewing the layout and condition of our highways, footpaths and cycleways and to recommend improvements to their condition and accessibility to the Highway Authority to minimise carbon emissions;
4. Planting trees in appropriate areas to offset the carbon produced by Southwell's homes;

B.3. Influencing others by:

1. Encouraging the use of public transport, cycle routes and footpaths;
2. Encouraging our community to minimise fossil fuel use;
3. Encouraging our community to install renewable and low carbon energy sources;
4. Encouraging our community to minimise waste by Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Composting, with a focus on minimising single-use plastics
5. Encouraging our community to buy Fairtrade and locally grown food, and less new clothes and shoes;
6. Encouraging our community to reduce meat consumption and eat more vegetables and fruit;
7. Supporting the traders to avoid plastic packaging and to use recyclable wrapping;

C. Accountability

1. Southwell Town Council will develop a workable Implementation Plan with details of actions, targets and funding implications and keep it under review;
2. Southwell Town Council will only implement items in this policy when they are adequately resourced;
3. Southwell Town Council will monitor compliance with this Policy and review it as necessary;
4. Southwell Town Council will publish this Policy on its website;

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