



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The council is committed to responding to the challenge of climate change and the need to transition to more sustainable ways of living.

The Case for Action

The scientific evidence from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is unequivocal. Climate change is already happening and poses a major threat to our long-term prosperity and well-being. Managing the threat requires a wide spread and rapid move away from the use of fossil fuels. The scale of this challenge means that all sectors of the community have to be involved in meeting targets for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

The Local Government Association in a recent report has said:

“Tackling climate change must be at the centre of local government’s vision for their communities. It is not another priority amongst the many that compete for local government leaders’ attention. It is now clear from the scientific evidence that it is the single priority which overrides all others, now and for the foreseeable future.

Acting now will avoid the future economic costs of climate change. The development of a low carbon economy also offers major economic opportunities.

Government is urging local councils to take action. Other Parish Councils are already taking action, see: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090807041051/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/publicsector/parish/pdf/ActOnCO2.pdf>

Sustainability Statement

Our vision for Burley in Wharfedale is that of a thriving community that is environmentally sustainable and socially just – As a Parish Council we recognise that urgent action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the impacts of climate change.

Associated Actions

As a Parish Council we will show our sustainability commitment and leadership by:

- 1) Appointing a Parish Sustainability champion, helping to spread information about climate change impacts, share learning through parish events/ newsletters and encourage adaptation and mitigation actions,
- 2) Knowing the size of the problem and annually monitoring change – The Parish Council will produce a carbon footprint and climate change action plan for the Parish (This is a Parish Plan action!).
- 3) Embedding sustainability in all Parish Council decisions and actions - starting by:
 - a) Systematically reducing the carbon footprint of Parish Council activities, achieved by auditing the carbon emissions from Parish Council operations/properties and developing year on year actions to reduce emissions;
 - b) Using planning powers under the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 to promote sustainable development, low-carbon lifestyles and development that is resilient to climate change in our parish;

c) Using the Parish Council procurement activity to both reduce our direct carbon footprint through the purchase of energy efficient, low carbon intensive goods and services and by influencing our supply chain through setting demanding standards and/or changing tender practices.
There is a lot more we can do as a Parish Council. This list of actions is a good start.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored periodically by the Council to judge its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with changes in the law.

This is a non-contractual procedure which will be reviewed from time to time.

Date of policy: March 2021

Approving committee: Full Council

Date of committee meeting: 11th March 2021 Policy version reference: v.1.0

Policy effective from: 11th March 2021