



Brixham Town Council

Climate & Environment Policy

**Adopted:
Reviewed**

Brixham Town Council is committed to support a sustainable community, seeking to improve the impact of climate and environment on the town to help make a positive difference to Brixham as a place to live and work.

In June 2019 Brixham Town Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to work with partners in Torbay to support strategies to combat Global Warming. This policy will support that aim, we will work toward protecting and improving our environment through our own actions and by working in partnership with others.

Vision and Aims

It is the intention of Brixham Town Council to:

- Set out short, medium and long-term goals to work towards improving our town environment and minimise Brixham Town Council's impact on the environment
- Work in partnership with Public Authorities, Community Partners, Local Businesses
- Ensure climate and environment is a factor in all future decisions and actions of Brixham Town Council
- Regularly review our progress and continue to set new goals as appropriate including task and finish groups

Action we have already taken:-

- Declared a climate emergency
- Challenged Torbay Council to:-
 - Declare a climate emergency declaration
 - Work with others Devon wide to develop an action plan
- Made changes to our allotment agreements to:-
 - Stop bonfires throughout the year
 - Prohibited carpets and lino as weed suppressant (due to chemicals seepage)
 - Prohibited pesticides on all sites
- Brixham Town Council agreed to phase out the use of pesticides on all Town Council owned or managed assets by 2022
- Implementing pollinator friendly floral displays in three redundant K6 Heritage telephone kiosks, including the installation of a 'bug hotel'.
- Participate in the 'Cycle scheme' which enables employees to save 25-39% of the cost of a new bike and encourages employees to cycle to work
- Brixham Town Hall building. The following has been carried out:
 - Faulty lights are being replaced with LED lights
 - Bins in the Scala Hall and Function Rooms had been replaced to dual bins encouraging more recycling
 - Occupiers are encouraged to turning off lights where possible
 - The use of plastic waste bags have been reduced
 - Cleaning products are being changed where possible and larger containers are being purchased to reduce the use of plastic
 - Reusable water bottles have been purchased for meetings
 - Confidential documents are shredded and used for animal bedding

Action to be taken

Short term goals

- Pilot a 'seed swap' element to the K6 Heritage telephone kiosks as mentioned above
- cycle parking at the appointed sites in the Town Centre
- Insect hotels situated at each of our allotment sites (with signage)

- Encourage cycle and walking schemes and the use of the Park & Ride
- Continue to replace faulty lights with LED at the Town Hall
- Replace Town Hall boilers to Eco and Energy Efficient

Medium term goals

- Promote local businesses who are contributing to improving the environment ie. a refill service reducing packaging
- Brixham Town Council procurement and supply chain, review including climate and environment impact as well as quality and price
- Consumables are sourced as sustainably as possible

Long term goals

- Water filling stations outside the Town Hall and via engagement of local businesses to reduce the use of single fill plastic bottles
- Electric vehicle charging points at the Town Hall and other identified areas in Brixham
- All Brixham Town Council owned vehicles to be ethically powered (currently this would be electric vehicles)
- Adoption of a Wildlife Protection Policy to protect all wildlife across the town
- Agree a Pollinator pledge and actions plan to encourage the planting of bee friendly flowers, shrubs and tree's to provide nectar throughout the year
- Introduction of a cycle hire scheme benefits of which not only include climate and environmental, but also health and well being

Brixham Town Council policy changes

- All planning application reviews to include a climate and environment initial assessment (will this have a negative/neutral/positive impact for Brixham from a resident's opinion rather than an expert assessment)
- Brixham Town Council to monitor how much spend is committed to environmental projects (cycle parking, improvements to Town Hall) and what percentage of total annual spend this is
- All policy reviews to include a climate and environment impact element

Partnership work

Public Authority Partnerships

- Aim to engage, inform and shape policies that affect Brixham Town Council regarding climate and the environment
- Encourage Torbay Council to actively adopt the action plan formed from the Devon Climate Emergency Interim Carbon Plan ([Climate Change Strategy - Torbay Council](#))
- Work with Torbay Council on new initiatives through their Climate Change Officer
- Encourage "green roofs" on all bus stops / shelters
- Encourage the use of solar powered bins which has the potential to reduce vehicular movement in Torbay.

Community Partnerships

- Lead and support campaigns/events such as Clean up Brixham campaigns including Brixham Town Council #2minute challenge and regular clean up events
- Support and encourage wild seeding at appropriate sites
- Encourage all Brixham events:- promote minimal plastic use, recycle/reuse plastics and other materials

Business Partnerships

- Lead and work in partnership with Brixham Chamber of Commerce to run Shop Local campaigns
- Promote independent local shops
- Promote local shops who are contributing positively to our environment
- Aim to engage, collaborate and shape policies with Brixham Chamber of Commerce to promote a healthy business culture which contributes positively to our environment in Brixham

This is a working document that Councillors and Officers can add to. If a Councillor or Officer identifies a goal they would like take the lead on, they must complete a Project Initiation Document (PID). Please see the Town Council's adopted Project Assessment and Progression Policy for details.