

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

1. Introduction

Crowborough Town Council (CTC) aspires to minimise its impact on the environment. This is the underlying ethos behind activities the council undertakes.

2. Policy Statement

2.1. Annual Performance

2.1.1. CTC measures the annual energy consumption (including electricity, gas, petrol and diesel), water consumption and waste volumes. CTC aims to reduce this impact on the environment.

2.2. Procurement

2.2.1. All purchases should not only be considered in terms of price but also in their environmental impact. CTC will consider buying local where there is a financially viable option.

2.2.2. Where practicable replace vehicles and equipment with electric, or other clean technology, when at end of life.

2.2.3. Before replacing equipment, consideration should be given to repairing the item.

2.3. Waste Management

2.3.1. Landfill makes a significant contribution to climate change through the release of methane, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂. CTC will investigate the main sources of waste with a view to decreasing the source.

2.3.2. CTC follows the WEEE regulations. (WEEE regulations ensure electrical and electronic equipment is recycled in a sustainable way when it reaches end of life)

2.3.3. CTC will implement a rolling programme of replacing general bins with dual recycling bins.

2.3.4. CTC should recycle high-grade paper and office waste paper.

2.3.5. All paper should be printed or photocopied dual sided.

2.4. Agricultural Products and Processes

2.4.1 CTC manages various areas of land. Best practices as outlined in DEFRA guidance should be implemented.

2.4.2 CTC will support ESCC's decision to cut grass verges twice a year to promote wild flowers, reduce costs and improve the environment. Community wild flower initiatives should be encouraged.

2.4.3 Grass surfaces other than sports grounds, recreation areas, and cemeteries will be cut long, infrequently, and with long grass verges to increase carbon capture and carbon footprint.

2.4.4 CTC adopts a three-year cycle of native hedge cutting as long as it does not impact access, visibility, and public safety.

2.4.5 Formal hedging, such as cemetery and allotment hedges, will be cut at least annually.

2.4.6 CTC promotes the retention of green corridors throughout the town with the ambition to improve connectivity with Ashdown Forest and other surrounding green spaces

2.5 Transport

- 2.5.1 CTC will promote sustainable transport for staff and councillors where practicable.
- 2.5.2. CTC will identify and promote footpaths and cycle routes within the town.
- 2.5.3 CTC will encourage the use of lower speed limits within the town to reduce carbon emissions and to encourage cycling and walking.
- 2.5.4 The Vision Document working group should investigate the options of pedestrianisation of some or part of the town centre.
- 2.5.5 Walking routes in and around the town should be designed and published online to promote a fitter and more healthy economy, Crowborough's green spaces, the town's history, economy, and tourism.

2.6. Energy Generation and Consumption

- 2.6.1 The roofs and other suitable surfaces of CTC properties should be assessed as to whether they are suitable to have solar panels or solar thermal installed, which would offset some of the electricity consumption.
- 2.6.2 Where practicable CTC will evaluate the possibility of Air Source Heating or other alternatives to reduce the carbon footprint from gas consumption which is the council's biggest impact on the environment.
- 2.6.3 The following CTC buildings will be maintained within a temperature range of 18°C to 22°C in the winter and cooled (where appropriate) to 23 degrees in the summer months.
 - The Council Offices Pine Grove
 - The Whitehill Centre
 - Council yard Wolfe Recreation Ground
- 2.6.4 When using petrol powered machinery CTC will use a cleaner engine fuel such as alkylate petrol.
- 2.6.5. Through the planning process CTC will encourage all new builds to be built to a high standard to include solar power, solar water heating, grey water recycling and air/ground sourced heating.

2.7. Sustainable Water Use

- 2.7.1 The water trough system should be considered for all allotments to make more efficient use of water resources.
- 2.7.2 Non-cemetery grey water will be captured where it can be re-used.
- 2.7.3 The council will use 'hippos' or the equivalent where toilet systems can accommodate.
- 2.7.4 To encourage staff and councillors to use their own reusable bottles the council will no longer offer the use of a water dispenser.

2.8. Community Engagement

- 2.8.1 The council will actively promote energy saving and sustainability tips through its social media channels.
- 2.8.2 Through its presence at council events, the council will engage with residents to demonstrate how sustainability can be achieved.