



Badgworth Parish Council

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Environmental Policy -DRAFT

Background

Badgworth Parish Council is a small parish with limited responsibilities, resources, funding and influence. The council does not own or manage any buildings but is responsible for 2 recreation fields.

“It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.” (Ref: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report 6)

Climate action is often described under the following three headings:

- Mitigation – reducing the carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.
- Adaptation – responses to the climate changes that are already happening.
- Nature Recovery – including offsetting the impact from past development. This is covered in the Councils Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan adopted 06/2024

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this policy is to address both the reduction of carbon emissions (mitigation) and the need to adapt to ongoing climate changes, focusing particularly on areas where the Council has direct responsibility.

When making decisions, the Council will take environmental impacts into account and will develop and implement relevant policies and strategies as required. The Council will also support local initiatives where appropriate.

The Council's approach will include the following objectives:

- Promoting Sustainable Travel: The Council will encourage residents and Councillors to opt for sustainable travel methods. It will continue efforts to lower speed limits in the parish, with the dual goals of minimising carbon emissions and improving road safety.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling: Emphasis will be placed on minimising waste by reducing unnecessary printing and prioritising the use of recycled, recyclable, or compostable materials for Council operations. The Council will support and promote local recycling efforts.
- Community Collaboration: The Council will work alongside community groups, promoting both local and national environmental schemes. Support will be

given to projects that advance environmental goals within the parish, fostering a culture of sustainability and collective action.

Actions:

Travel

The Council will:

- Encourage employees and Councillors to walk, cycle, use public transport, or car-share when attending Council-related events.
- Support, promote, and contribute to schemes that deliver safe active travel routes within the parish.
- Continue efforts to implement lower speed limits in the parish to improve safety and reduce environmental impact.

Waste and Recycling

The Council will:

- Minimise printing for all Council meetings to reduce waste.
- Where possible, use recyclable, compostable, and/or recycled products in the execution of Council work.
- Promote local schemes for repair, reuse, and recycling to encourage sustainable practices within the community.

Engaging with the Local Community

The Council will:

- Raise awareness of key environmental issues within the parish through effective communication and information sharing.
- Publicise and distribute information about national and local initiatives that promote renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- Represent and advocate for local environmental concerns on behalf of the community.
- Support local groups dedicated to mitigating climate change impacts.
- Work collaboratively with the local community, organisations, and other levels of local government on environmental projects, such as village hall energy efficiency schemes.
- Assist Somerset Council in achieving its climate-related goals.

Other

The Council will:

- Develop a parish emergency plan to ensure preparedness for weather events such as flooding, extreme winds and heat.

This policy and its application will be subject to annual review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of the Council.

Dated: