

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**A 36-POINT ACTION PLAN TO TACKLE THE
CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY (v0.5)**

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Thatcham Town Council will:

- ✓ **demonstrate leadership through our own practical actions**
 - ✓ **use our powers wisely**
 - ✓ **use our voice**
 - ✓ **be a force for good**
 - ✓ **support practical action by local people**
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1. Putting the climate at the heart of decision-making

Our goal is to ensure that our climate and nature restoration goals are front and centre in all decision-making and investments.

√	Policy	Align all council plans, policies and guidance with respective carbon reduction pathways and nature restoration plans
√	Policy	Ensure Council funds are invested wisely and not with establishments that actively fund fossil fuel projects
1.1	Action	Set interim and measurable targets for our council to achieve net zero greenhouse reductions and meet nature restoration goals
1.2	Action	Appoint Climate and Nature Champions to lead awareness and education within the Council and the community
1.3	Action	Publish an annual report to the public on progress in meeting climate change and nature targets
1.4	Action	Prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan that includes levels of environmental awareness and action
1.5	Action	Wherever practicable, use contractors who demonstrate high levels of environmental awareness and action in their business activities, such as those identified through; their environmental policy, a statement on their businesses environmental impact, their environmental qualifications, or an environmental questionnaire
1.6	Action	Encourage applications that seek to address the climate emergency and nature recovery through the council's grant schemes

2.Raising money

Our goal is to have sufficient resource to invest in the changes needed to restore nature and meet climate goals, so that our council can reap the dividends and deliver our fair share of greenhouse gas reductions.

2.1	Action	Budget capital funding each financial year to climate actions and nature restoration projects and support implementation of this action plan
2.2	Action	Use legal and planning mechanisms, for example Community Infrastructure Levy, to fund climate actions and nature restoration projects
2.3	Action	When necessary, use loans to fund large-scale or long-term projects; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salix Finance Ltd delivers government funding to the public sector, including central government, to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills• Public Works Loan Board

3.Land management

Our goal is to restore nature to help drawdown carbon pollution from the atmosphere and to ensure everyone has access to nature in nearby green spaces.

√	Policy	Protect council owned and managed local open spaces from development
√	Policy	Manage council-owned land to increase biodiversity and drawdown carbon pollution, including through reduced pesticide use
√	Policy	Encourage and support local residents to enhance public spaces by planting and managing pollinator friendly shrubs, trees and grasses, creating wildlife havens
3.1	Action	Increase tree cover on council-owned land through an annual planting scheme, and plant trees to provide shaded areas at play areas/open spaces
3.2	Action	Aspire to map, visit and appraise the natural habitats under our control and produce a nature and ecosystem restoration plan to reverse and restore habitats, species and ecosystem quality & function
3.3	Action	Assess and apply for Tree Preservation Orders on all trees identified as being important to the town

4.Asset Management

Our goal is to proactively manage and maintain Council assets in a manner that minimizes environmental impact and to encourage tenants and service users to embrace the same ethos

√	Policy	Encourage tenants of council buildings to be energy efficient, and work with them to undertake an environmental impact assessment and action plan; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cricket Club• The Priory• Old Bluecoat School• The Workshop• Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Hall 2
4.1	Action	Commission an environmental impact assessment of all assets owned or managed by the council and implement an action plan
4.2	Action	Facilitate telecommuting by providing communal space for 'home' workers
4.3	Action	Ensure regular maintenance of solar panels on Town Council buildings to maximise efficiency
4.4	Action	Review electricity supply contracts at renewal, and switch to a renewable energy tariff
4.5	Action	Switch council managed street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights

5. Energy

Our goal is to enable and support the growth and use of green energy, ensure energy is not wasted, and prevent the development of new fossil fuel extraction.

5.1	Action	Identify areas suitable for renewable energy
5.2	Action	Continue to research options for generating renewable energy at all council owned and managed buildings

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6.Waste

Our goal is to be a minimal waste area where all waste is minimised, recycled or reused as part of a circular economy approach.

√	Policy	Keep waste to a minimum by doing everything practical to prevent, reuse, recycle or recover waste (in that order) and ensure waste management contractors send as little waste as possible to landfill or incineration
√	Policy	Require all Council commissioned waste collection contractors to provide a statement annually detailing how/where waste has been disposed of
√	Policy	Support schemes that aim to reduce or eliminate waste
√	Policy	Support establishment, promotion and facilitation of community repair, share and reuse schemes
√	Policy	Encourage and support the setting up of local swap shops, borrow libraries, repair cafe etc
6.1	Action	Work towards eliminating single-use plastic wherever possible, for example; novelty plastic toys, unnecessary plastic packaging, laminated documents and single-use marketing products etc
6.2	Action	Enhance recycling facilities in Town Council buildings and recreation spaces

7. Transport

Our goal is to reduce air pollution to meet World Health Organisation levels.

√	Policy	Support increased levels of walking and cycling and where appropriate prioritise both over vehicles in new transport schemes
7.1	Action	Consider introducing a workplace sustainable transport policy that incentivises sustainable travel by staff and Councillors
7.2	Action	Consider offering a cycle-to-work scheme, providing zero interest bikes through salary sacrifice and provide safe storage
7.3	Action	Review cycle and walking routes, including the canal towpath between Newbury and Thatcham, to determine if new recreational routes can be developed or improved
7.4	Action	Support expansion of electric charging points across the town by identifying and recommending sites to West Berkshire Council

8.Planning

We will use our position as a planning consultee to...

√	Policy	Give substantial weight to its environmental benefits and harms
√	Policy	Request that developments include sustainable features such as solar or thermal panels, EV charge points or water conservation, when these are appropriate and relevant to the purpose of the application

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9. Food

Our goal is to adopt the principles of a plant-based treaty into council practices and support the community to transition to a more sustainable lifestyle

9.1	Action	Design public information campaigns to raise awareness about the climate and the environmental advantages and health benefits of plant-based food, nutrition and cooking
9.2	Action	Encourage plant-based foods at all Civic/Council functions
9.3	Action	Actively source ethical and environmental traders for Council markets, events etc
9.4	Action	Host a Vegan Fair as part of the annual Thatcham Family Fun Day

10. Plastic Free Thatcham

Our goal is to support Eco Friends (West Berkshire) and other partners, to achieve and maintain plastic free status for Thatcham

√	Policy	Adopt a Charter committing the Town Council to reduce the impact of single-use plastics in all Council activities
√	Policy	Require all Council commissioned waste collection contractor, to provide a statement annually detailing how/where waste has been disposed of
10.1	Action	Reduce single-use promotional material and instead invest in advertising and promotional items for multiple use
10.2	Action	Work with Eco Friends (West Berkshire) to achieve and maintain Plastic Free Thatcham status
10.3	Action	Encourage and support Thatcham Chamber of Commerce to promote the Water Refill scheme amongst local businesses
10.4	Action	Conduct an annual assessment of plastics generated by Council activities and establish practices to reduce further
10.5	Action	Provide Councillors and Officers with a reuseable cup for use on Council business
10.6	Action	Introduce a flowerpot swap station at Henleys Allotments and Jubilee Sensory Garden
10.7	Action	Install a water refill station to the exterior of the public toilets in The Broadway