



**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY**  
**LOCAL ACTION PLAN**

Parish and Town Councils have limited direct powers compared with local Authorities however this Council will endeavour where possible to address the climate and nature emergency and be a local force and catalyst for change.

The Council, by this Action Plan, will:

**Be a force for improvement**

1. Encourage and support the formation of Climate Action Groups, including local school, sports and other clubs, Scouts etc.
2. Be supportive of planning applications proposing renewable energy in the area. Although the Local Planning Authorities (EHDC/HCC) decide local planning applications, parish councils are formal consultees and are invited to comment on all applications. Comments will highlight effects on climate change, for example; loss of trees, effect on carbon emissions, proximity to local amenities and public transport.
3. Lobby the Local Authorities to bring in new policies to reflect the effects of climate change
4. Promote and support practical action by local people.
5. Promote lift-sharing schemes.

**Demonstrate leadership through our own practical actions**

6. Save energy. Ensure council owned buildings are as energy efficient as possible.
7. Produce green energy. Investigate installation of renewable energy generation eg. Heat pumps, solar PV, wind turbine.
8. Manage land for nature
  - a. Change the mowing regime, reduce the amount and areas of cut.
  - b. No strimming around trees
  - c. Develop wildlife friendly corridors and plant pollinators on parish owned verges
  - d. encourage residents to increase biodiversity on their own land.
9. Increase tree cover.
  - a. Ash die back, there will be a loss of a number of trees locally and to compensate for their loss, two trees will be planted for every tree lost.
  - b. New areas for planting to be identified and 5 year planting plan in place with a view to increasing tree cover by 25%.
  - c. Identify incentives to encourage local residents to plant trees, ie. every new house built, every new baby born.
  - d. Work closely with the Local Authorities (EHDC/HCC) and the Woodland Trust.
10. Buy green. Look at all options for buying green; renewable energy, food at events, etc.
11. Encourage use of 'Green' transport.
  - a. Highlight and improve local walking and cycling routes to encourage local residents to walk/cycle

- b. Support local primary schools walk/scooter to school initiative.
  - c. Provide cycle parking at the Recreation Ground
  - d. Provide an electric charging point
12. Look at all recycling initiatives to minimise waste to landfill and reduce single use plastic within the village
- a. Encourage residents to not use 'single use' plastic
  - b. Investigate additional local recycling options

**Use powers wisely**

13. Ensure the Council knows the climate change or nature implications of any decisions before they are made.
14. Ensure external lighting within the village remains minimal and maintain commitment to clear night skies in line with the South Downs National Park Authority's dark skies policy, ensuring a protected and continual wildlife friendly night time environment. South Downs National Park are the only authority in the Country with an adopted policy, with only six in the world.
15. Neighbourhood Plan/Village Design statement to encourage new homes to be energy efficient, nature friendly and located close to public transport. Future housing should be zero-carbon and nature friendly, fitted with renewable energy, located close to amenities and public transport to avoid car dependency.
16. Walking and cycling.
- a. Identify and designate safe walking and cycle routes by promoting on notice boards, website, local publications
  - b. Upgrade all footpath/cycle way signage
  - c. Work with District and County Council to identify potential new routes.