

LEICESTERSHIRE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON EVENT – 3 JULY 2023

LOCAL COUNCILS MAKING A CLIMATE CHANGE

JONATHAN OWEN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

THE CHALLENGE AND THE SOLUTION

LGA : councils can influence 80% of emission from their places, have direct influence over 1/3rd of emissions and have direct responsibility for 3-5% of emissions.

“The position of councils as place-shapers, convenors of communities and local partners, asset owners, problem solvers and significant purchasers puts them at the forefront of delivering real tangible changes in the transition to net zero.”



5,096 Tweets

Tweets Replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet

 **Climate Change Committee** @the... · 2d ...

Despite over 3,000 pages of new detail, our confidence in the UK meeting its goals from 2030 onwards is now markedly less than it was in our previous assessment a year ago. A key opportunity to push a faster pace of progress has been missed. theccc.org.uk/2023/06/28/bet...

 “I urge the Government to regroup on Net Zero and commit to bolder delivery. This is a period when pace must be prioritised over perfection.”

Lord Deben, Chairman

 Climate Change Committee

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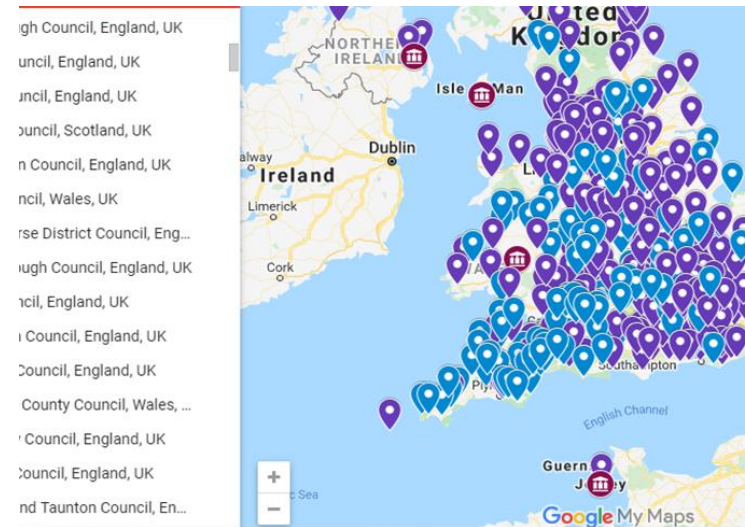
“We need to have a better partnership between the government & local government, I don’t just mean the county & district councils, but also the parish councils who have a real part to play.” - November 2021

“Altogether, we are failing to deliver. And I think the whole political system is responsible.” – June 2023

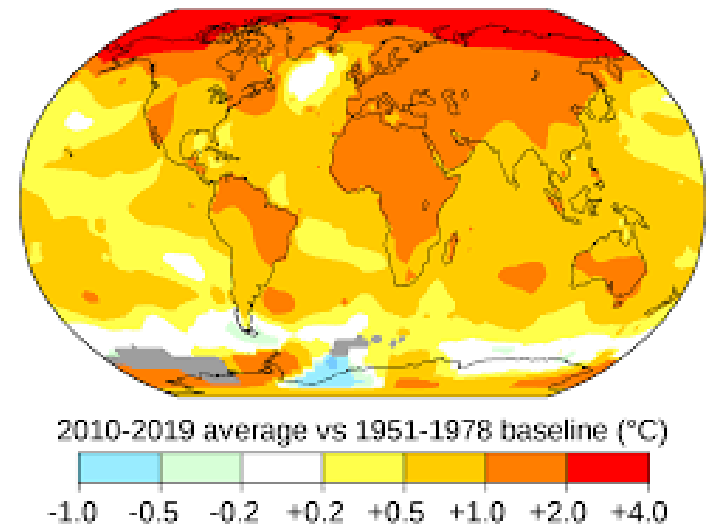
Lord Deben

THE NEXT PANDEMIC: MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE

- 40 % of local councils have declared a climate emergency
- Working with other agencies and tiers of government to develop action plans and build into recovery planning
- Vital leadership role, a link between and with communities
- Excellent local knowledge and understanding of needs
- Do something simple and bring communities with you
- Talk to and engage with local groups, you can be the point of collaboration
- Trusted local voices providing information and support



Temperature change in the last 50 years



NALC'S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- One of our big themes
- Declared climate emergency in 2019, Task and Finish Group to drive our work
- Dedicated webpage
- Resources, information, advice and case studies
- Climate emergency network (330 members)
- Identify/lobby for change in laws/barriers
- Engage with Environment Bill
- Collaborate with other stakeholders including government to fit local councils into puzzle of tackling climate change
- Net zero forum member



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CLIMATE CHANGE

ABOUT

The rise in the public consciousness of climate change in 2019 was evidenced by the Collins word of the year, Climate Strike. Figures such as Greta Thunberg and India Logan-Riley have familiarised climate change amongst young people worldwide and drawn attention to the action needed to combat climate change locally and nationally.

NALC responded to this appeal by organising a climate change panel session and declaring a climate emergency at its Annual Conference in October 2019. NALC is proud that many local (parish and town) councils declare a climate emergency and are working to encourage others to do the same.

NALC believes that, collectively, across 10,000 local councils, we can tackle climate change locally and create more climate-friendly communities.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change refers to the long-term shift in the Earth's weather patterns and average temperatures. For the past 250 years, humans have contributed to the increased release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which causes an increase in global temperatures.

Burning fossil fuels, such as coal, produces energy while releasing greenhouse gases. The long-term challenge is addressing this build-up of greenhouse gases and ensuring a clean future for future generations. For example, according to the MET Office, atmospheric carbon dioxide rose by 40% during the 20th and 21st centuries and is now over 400 ppm (parts per million). This level of carbon dioxide is higher than at any time in the past 800,000 years.

CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT 2021

The report aimed to accurately depict how climate change is being tackled by local councils and identify their challenges. In doing so, NALC can better understand how to support local councils in creating more sustainable communities.

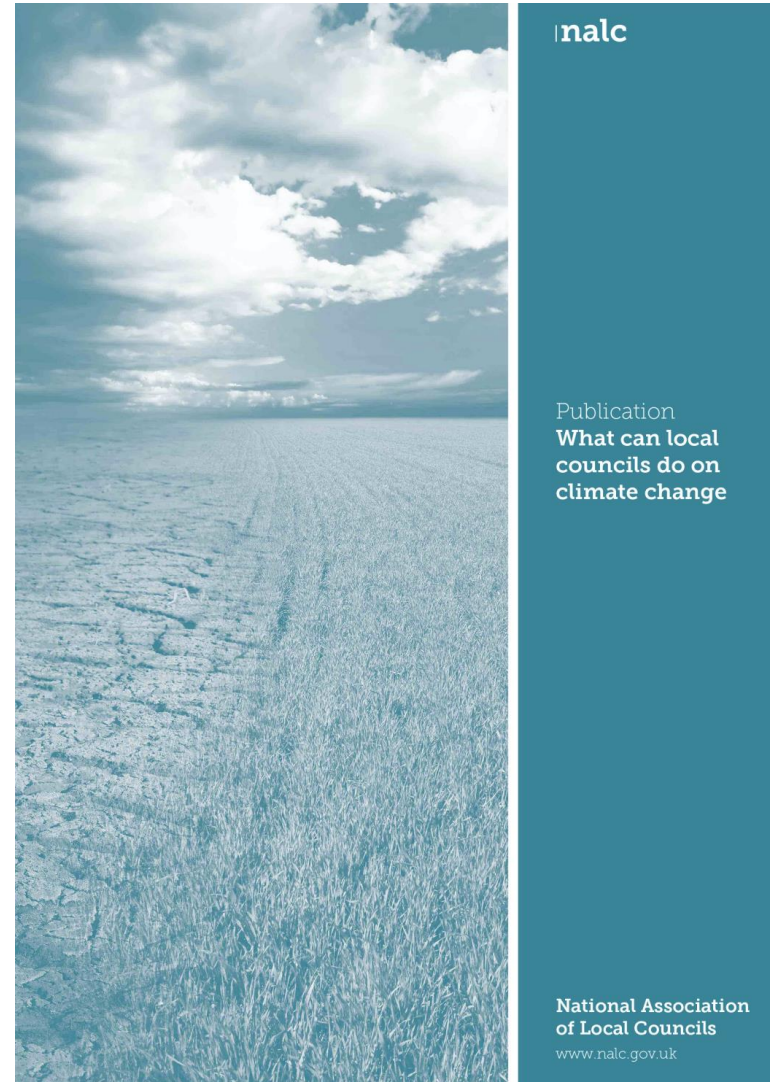
TOPICS

- Carbon and plastic reduction
- Designing greener housing
- Electric charging points
- Energy
- Green recovery
- Green travel
- How to declare a climate emergency
- Trees and tree management
- Trusted companies and funding

CASE STUDIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Published [case studies](#) of practical steps councils are taking including on:

- biodiversity
- carbon off-setting
- climate forums
- community projects
- greener housing
- electric charging points
- energy
- heating
- green travel (and more!)



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Publication
**What can local
councils do on
climate change**

National Association
of Local Councils
www.nalc.gov.uk

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MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: EAST MIDLANDS/EASTERN

- Kidworth Beaumont Parish Council worked with the district council on installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points
- Market Deeping Parish Council and Deepings St James Parish Council, runner's up in The People's Award at Transport Planning Day 2019 with 'Green Walk' initiative in neighbourhood plan for new developments, all new footpaths required to be 'safe, accessible, attractive, and rationally linked to existing routes.'
- Woodbridge Town Council's Green Vein project aims to restore and optimise green infrastructure, commitment to plant 250 trees a year, issuing more Tree Preservation Orders and increasing environmental citizenship
- Felixstowe Town Council declared climate emergency, EV charging points partnering with County Council on 'Plugin Suffolk', Repair Café to encourage repairing items and Library of Things to enable easy borrowing, obtains energy from 100% renewable energy supplier and introduced cycle to work scheme and encouraging car sharing

MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: FROM TOWN COUNCIL

- December 2018 declared climate emergency, committed to going carbon neutral by 2030
- Solar funding project helps residents install solar panels at discounted rate
- Hosted climate change talks for other local councils
- Created climate emergency paper, shared for other councils to follow
- Promotes green transport such as electric vehicles, car sharing, public transport, cycling, walking
- Sharing hub for household items, community fridge to reduce waste
- Looking into a council owned wind turbine

FrOme
Made differently



PARTNERSHIP WORKING KEY

The Winchester Climate Action Network (WeCAN) project aims to engage parish councils, community groups and residents in the Winchester district and inspire them to take action against climate change

- Surveyed parish councils to find out climate emergency activity
- Carbon footprint report prepared for each parish
- Climate action planning workshops
- Carbon reduction initiatives identified

Partnership working will be crucial – 27m homes will need to be retrofitted by 2050 for example, a new role for neighbourhood plans?

MAKE A CLIMATE CHANGE: QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

- Legally binding target to achieve 16.5% tree cover by 2050 (currently 14.5%)
- Trees important to local councils: parks, open spaces, allotments, playing fields
- Trees important to all of us: to breathe, combat climate change, mental/physical health, wildlife, flooding
- Tree planting
- Tree Charter project
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee... 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'
- Free trees from Woodland Trust

Lubbesthorpe Parish Council Serving the people of Lubbesthorpe

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Planting of the Jubilee Orchard

Get involved with planting the Jubilee Orchard.



UPDATE: the Oak trees have now been planted by the landscapers. Tuesday afternoon 2-4.30pm come and join in planting the fruit trees.

The planting of the trees for the Jubilee Orchard has been arranged for Tuesday 29th March 2-4.30pm. . Please bring your own spade, gloves and sturdy shoes.

The location is Old Warren Park at the south west corner near to Beggars Lane and Halladale Drive.



YOUTH IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



REPORT FINDINGS

- “92% said tackling climate change and protecting the environment is important to them personally.”
- “When asked what type of environmental action they would like to be involved in, most popular answers were making changes to their lifestyle (64%) and volunteering with local environmental projects (55%).”
- BUT young people “...were not aware of what environmental activities were happening locally to them or how to get involved...although many local authorities are developing climate action plans...knew very little about what decisions were being made in their area and how they could have a say.”
- YP “reiterated the importance of having good quality natural spaces close to where they live...investment in parks/green spaces can increase interest in nature & environment within the community...bringing wide range of benefits to health, social connections, & the local economy.”

**YOUR LOCAL
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**
MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

LINKS/RESOURCES :

- [NALC website](#) including ‘what can your local council do?’, ‘Trusted companies and funding’ and themes of climate action
- [Friends of the Earth](#) ‘20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency’
- [DEFRA](#) ‘Adapting to climate change: A guide for local councils’
- [Climate Action](#) ‘Climate Action Plan for councils’
- [The Woodland Trust](#), [The Tree Charter](#) and tree management
- [LGA climate change hub](#)