

## **1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT Climate and Environment Strategy Working Party**

**Present:** Cllr Pearce, Cllr Solomon; Cllr Leavy; Cllr Mander; D Mears; L Williams

It was agreed that the Strategy will consist of 'Change Targets' as suggested by the Carbon Literacy Training facilitated by the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC). It will inform forward planning for the Council and will be reviewed annually.

### **Change Target 1: Reduce energy demand:**

- Identify where improvements can be made to Town Council buildings.
- Support and promote retro-fit/energy saving initiatives/advice – ie facilitating CSE drop-ins at Town Hall Community Drop-ins and signposting CSE to community centres across the town.
- Town Council host 'Eco Hub' with free impartial advice (see above, plus Eco Hub to be incorporated into Town Hall once Town Hall remodelling.
- Smart working – alternating use of equipment which is powered by solar batteries (eg Friarn Avenue Workshop). Fitting light sensors.
- De-carbonising Building needing to be done: Arts Centre, Museum, Roller Coaster, Trinity Hall (partly done), ReCreation (started). Solar panels.
- Changing culture – ie turn off lights when rooms not in use!

### **Change Target 2: Change habits – ie smarter/flexible energy demand:**

Using electricity at low demands. Using Apps to power equipment/vehicles outside of peak times. Using equipment when solar panels will be at full capacity.

### **Change Target 3: De-carbonise our power generation:**

- Town Hall and Arts Centre Energy consumption assessed to identify better energy efficiency carried out.
- Installation of solar panels on Town Hall, and Friarn Avenue Workshop
- Identify opportunities to install Solar Panel on Trinity Hall, Arts Centre cemetery lodge, chapel and other Town Council buildings
- Changed energy supplier to more eco provider
- Town Rangers equipment is generated by solar powered battery charged.

### **Change Target 4: De-carbonise heat delivery:**

- Replacing old inefficient radiators with new efficient radiators.

### **Change Target 5: Reduce private car and increase active travel use:**

- Octopus EV vehicle salary sacrifice scheme available to staff
- Bike To Work Scheme available to staff
- Purchase Pool Electric bike(s)
- Consider pool of electric vehicles (2024/25?)
- Support and promote Active Travel initiatives
- Town Council Transport Forum

- Encourage walking and cycling wherever possible (ie Town Trail for bikes, Town Trail for trees. Walking and cycling maps)
- Campaign for more walking and cycling routes

#### **Change Target 6: Electrifying remaining vehicles:**

- Current fleet stock two thirds electric
- Electric charging point installed at Friarn Avenue workshop
- Look to most carbon efficient vehicles as we renew stock

#### **Change Target 7: Massively reduce air travel:**

- Investigate alternatives to air travel, where feasible in carrying out overseas civic/Mayoral Twinning visits

#### **Change Target 8: Improve new build standards:**

- Use influence through development of new Somerset-wide Local Plan
- Investigate the benefits of developing a Bridgwater Neighbourhood Plan in view of environment and CIL receipts
- Using influence over planning to endeavour to improve standards

#### **Change Target 9: Reducing consumption: Repair and Re-use:**

- Donate IT?
- Organise Eco Festival (including Seed The Day Vegan Market) to include Book/Clothes/Toy Libraries?
- Seed swaps (work with Engine Room/Flower Show Committee/Allotments)
- Optimise Community Drop-ins with more targeted environment activities?
- Promote the Repair Cafes

#### **Change Target 10: Increase recycling rates:**

- Town Council Single Use Plastics Policy
- Review of on-street recycling in the town
- Promoting waste collection authority initiatives

#### **Change Target 11: Alter dietary patterns and reduce food waste:**

- Use best endeavours to reduce food to waste.
- Promote plant-based diets through Seed The Day and other festivals/events
- Mayor/Town Council to offer predominately non-meat options. Meat products, when provided, should be sourced through locally reared, low intensity, farming where possible
- Support local Pantries

**Change Target 12: Improve Land Management:**

- Extend Pesticide Free Policy to parks and open spaces, street cleaning
- Manage all Town Council owned land to maximise environmental and health and well-being benefits where possible with appropriate planting
- Work with allotment holders to reduce reliance on harmful pesticides

**Change Target 13: Enhance natural carbon sinks:**

- Manage/support The Meads management to enhance both its function as a flood plain, carbon sink, wetland grazing meadow, whilst promoting public access as a place for health and well-being benefits.