

BOATC CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Alex Kay

2019

BOA



**BRADFORD
ON AVON**
TOWN COUNCIL

On March 5th 2019, Bradford on Avon Town Council voted unanimously for a Climate Emergency Motion pledging to make the town carbon neutral by 2030, joining a growing list of communities not just in the UK but across the World to do likewise. To achieve this aim we need to act.



Climate Emergency Motion: May 2019

Alex Kay

Strategy Basis: Bradford on Avon

Greta Thunberg: ***"Our house is on fire....I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. We owe it to the young people, to give them hope"***.

On March 5th 2019, Bradford on Avon Town Council voted unanimously for a Climate Emergency Motion pledging to make the town carbon neutral by 2030, joining a growing list of communities not just in the UK but across the World to do likewise. To achieve this aim we need to act. We need to engage with all of the community to support this and as a Council, we need to encourage, invest and support. The UN Panel told us we had 12 years in October 2018 and the global community has already lost 6 months with little to show for it. So we must do what we can on a local scale to raise awareness and makes changes.

<https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/climate-emergency-declared-by-town-council>



Benchmarking

The average UK person's carbon footprint amounts to **nearly 10 tonnes CO₂**. This is twice the global average per capita but well below the highest. (*Note: USA is the highest per capita by nearly twice, China is the highest total but much has the bigger population*). This doesn't include our share of industrial and public infrastructure usage (factories, hospitals, roads) and the real average use may be as high as **15 metric tonnes CO₂ per year**.

We could spend a long time arguing about the exact numbers and how we measure progress, but I believe that we should be acting immediately as the general scale of the problem is known to be enormous.

There are clear areas of focus for all of us as individuals: domestic energy use and travel.

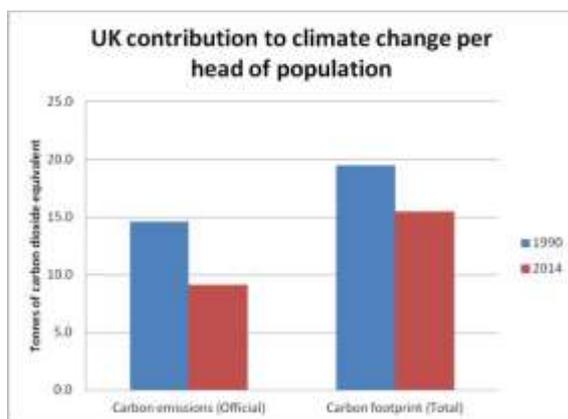
As a community, we need go further, to include public infrastructure energy use, provision of public transport, planning regulations, investment in technology and education, green space protection and tree-planting. Promoting best-practice across the community and beyond to other towns and parishes may enable real progress towards carbon-neutrality by 2030. As a Town Council, BOATC do not have direct responsibility for many of these areas, but we must challenge and influence where we can and act where we do hold responsibility.

- **Comments in red suggestions for BOATC actions**

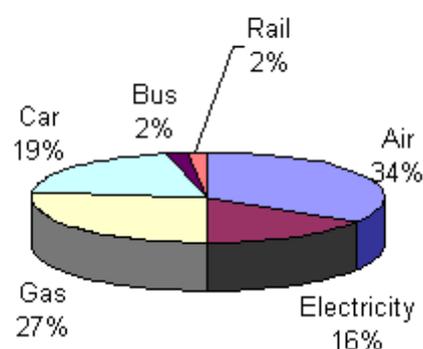
<http://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/how-big-average-briton-s-carbon-footprint-really>

www.carboncalculator.co.uk/averages.php

<https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2323>



Where the average person uses carbon





RAISING AWARENESS

- **Dedicated steering group to be chaired by Chair BOATC E&P Committee and to include members and representatives from the following (but not limited to):**
 - a. **One or more other Councillors and interact with all other BOATC Committees as appropriate;**
 - b. **Seek advice and support from Council officers;**
 - c. **BoA Wiltshire Councillors;**
 - d. **Climate Friendly Bradford (who are already represented on E&P Committee);**
 - e. **BoA Business;**
 - f. **BoA Preservations Trust;**
 - g. **Friends of Holy Trinity and/or other Church groups;**
 - h. **West Wiltshire Wildlife;**
 - i. **Seniors Forum and/or U3A;**
 - j. **BoA Schools;**
 - k. **Other youth groups (Guides, Scouts etc);**
 - l. **Sports Groups**
 - m. **And others....**
- **Steering Group not intended to 'replicate' Climate Friendly who do such great work for environment already) but to engage with other groups across the community demographic;**
- **Focus around ca. monthly E&P meetings with ad hoc focus sessions as required;**
- **Assign champions for key areas.**

- **Include Climate Emergency standing agenda item on Full Town Council monthly meetings to consider keep high-level profile, report on progress, support/request funding and new ideas;**
- **Dedicated ENVIRONMENT area on the new BOATC website;**
- **Weekly posts on top-eco tips and ideas;**
- **Standing Environment section on BOATC Quarterly newsletters;**
- **Consider running competitions to increase awareness and bring in new ideas;**
- **2019 SW in Bloom theme is Climate Emergency Awareness;**
- **Have a special Climate Awareness area in TIC and/or other BOATC building/buildings;**
- **Correspond with other Councils working towards same target to share best practice;**
- **Engage with other towns and parishes who have not signed up to work towards same target;**
- **Write and work with Wiltshire Council and Westminster.**



ENERGY:

Over 40% of this is likely to be from your gas and electricity usage... so by every house in Bradford signing up with a green supplier where electricity is from renewables and gas off-set (e.g. Green Network, Ecotricity, Good Energy or Bulb) would make a significant step towards the goal.

Every effort to install renewable energy, such as solar panels, solar water-heating, heat pumps and in suitable locations, wind-turbines, would be even better. There may be government grants to help you do this.

Removing or reducing domestic natural gas usage, by remembering to turn off lights and other appliances, turning down the thermostat. This can be enhanced by better insulation and there may be government grants for you to do this.

- Invest in solar panels on other Council owned/controlled properties, e.g. public toilets, youth centre, etc (each will need separate proposal and significant support from Wiltshire Council);
- Expand renewable programme to new assets transferred to BOATC;
- Provide information on green energy providers;
- Provide energy on eco server supply, e.g. 'Ecosia' which offsets energy internet server energy use by planting trees;
- Offer expert advice on improving home energy efficiency (insulation etc);
- Work with Solar energy providers to make concessionary rates for installation;
- Provide information on government grants and support for insulation and energy solutions;
- Consider providing grants to support renewable energy installation.



BUILDING AND PLANNING

Encourage national and unitary Councils to insist on strict environmental standards for all new-build homes to future-proof with respect to energy use and generation, insulation and grey-water/run-off water collection/re-use.

Insist on maximum enforcement of strict LEMP conditions for developments and encourage in law protection of hedgerows and trees within reason.

In planning applications to modify existing properties, also insist on maximum tree/green protection and select towards improvements in energy efficiency

- Draft guidelines for BOATC planning recommendations for new builds;
- Continue engagement with BoAPT to aid environmental enhancement of older buildings (as per Historic England guidance);
- Engage with Wiltshire Council for higher environmental and sustainable standards within the Wiltshire Core Strategy (renamed Wiltshire Local Plan).



TRANSPORT:

Much of the remaining 60% CO₂, about 6 tonnes each, comes from our transport needs and choices. Air travel accounts on average, about half of that CO₂, but of course is very variable depending on holiday frequency and business trips. It is not easy to see a way of reducing this significantly without massive life-style changes, including more use of virtual-meetings, but does not allow for the pleasure we enjoy of travel. Hence, much of this section would require OFFSET (see below). There is often a choice to pay a little extra for offset when booking flights.

Working from home and reduce the commute, gives you more time and reduces your CO₂.

Walk or cycle more local trips and this helps to reduce problems with parking, congestion, and air quality.

Use the bus or train instead. Even existing diesel versions of public transport are desirable from a CO₂ and environmental standpoint.

Encourage/campaign for greener and more frequent public transport: We have the technology but needs government investment.

Consider changing your family car for greener options: electric, hybrid, smaller, more efficient.

- Invest in additional electric car charging points (preferably with renewable energy supply)
- Provide more information about greener transport opportunities
- Encourage community car-pooling and car-sharing
- One car per household
- Provide information of the environmental choices of different travel and different vehicle types



TREE PLANTING AND GREENSPACES: OFFSET AND BALANCING

All green plants use CO₂ and sunlight in photosynthesis and release oxygen. So although we can't entirely eliminate our CO₂ footprint, as we breathe out CO₂ from our own life processes, we can offset by planting trees and maintaining our green spaces. This has many other environmental benefits of improving habitat and encouraging wildlife. Green space is very beneficial to our mental and physical well-being and can help to rebalance our relationship with the whole planet. Plant trees and plants to soak up carbon and include insect-friendly plants in our meadows, verges and gardens to promote bio-diversity.

- Tree and hedge planting;
- Develop a green-corridor across the parish, could include in land purchase if possible;
- Develop guidelines and advice for carbon-offset investment etc;
- New BOATC Greenspace Officer role;
- Invest in tree planting in public spaces (and out) of parish, especially insect-friendly plants to soak up carbon and promote bio-diversity;
- Provide lists of recommended plants for gardens to enhance biodiversity;
- Encourage increased biodiversity, e.g. supporting wildflower-verges mowing and verge-cutting approach;
- Make Ecological/Environmental benefits at heart of our SW in Bloom strategy;
- Consider creating Living Green walls in town centre locations;
- Encourage community gardening and



WASTE: REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, REFILL, RECYCLE

As part of reducing our shared and collective CO₂ footprint, we need to be more careful with our waste products. If we minimise waste of all kinds, we reduce the energy and materials required to make those products. The reduction of litter, particularly plastics, has been the focus of the **Plastic-free** community initiative and is also important towards the Climate Emergency with added benefits of cleaning up our rivers and oceans and reducing/removing harmful pollution.

- Continue & expand Plastic-free agenda raising profile of businesses who have made significant eco contribution;
- Encourage more recreational groups to sign up for Plastic-free;
- Complete drinking water station installations;
- Invest in recycle points in recreation areas;
- Invest on TerraCycle points;
- Involve schools ;
- Carry a shopping bag and refuse plastic carriers;
- Buy local produce and grow your own;
- Reduce meat and dairy consumption.