



Introduction

It is beyond any reasonable doubt that climate change is taking place, and its effects are beginning to be felt. What we do today can make a huge difference to protect our community and natural places from the impacts of climate change but also enable us to seize the real opportunities arising from the green economy.

2. Policy Statement

Wantage Town Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate change.
2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
3. Bold climate action can also deliver economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

Wantage Town Council has a key role in shaping the local response to climate change in a way that reflects the specific needs of our local area.

3. Strategic Priorities

This Sustainability Policy brings out the key strategic priorities that our Sustainability Action Plan focuses on. We will work with partners from local businesses, community groups and residents to deliver this and report the actions the Town Council will take to address this emergency.

4. Council Pledges

The Council pledges to:

- Become carbon neutral by 2030 by reducing the carbon footprint of business operations and to do all it can to support carbon emission reduction across the town.
- Safeguard water resources and build resilience against water scarcity and flooding by working with Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Water to reduce climate related risks.
- Work towards a zero-waste by minimising physical and digital waste generated through town and business activities and promoting a circular economy across town.
- Support the health of local natural ecosystems by working with local community groups to protect local diversity by developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Promote a green economy for Wantage to strengthen its economic sustainability by actively engaging with and giving back to the local business and the community, building trust, loyalty, and mutual support and fostering a community where diversity, equity, and inclusion are actively promoted and practised

The Town Council has a Climate Emergency committee and is working with interested residents and groups to monitor the council's own environmental impact and to lead changes within the community.

Date of Policy	Approving Committee	Date of Committee Meeting	Policy Reference Version	Supersedes	Adopted by Council	Date for next review
January 2025	PM&F	29/01/2025	V1	N/A	29/01/2025	January 2027