



Climate Strategy Engagement

In June of this year, Box Parish Council set up a Climate Change Working Party in order to formalise and communicate the action our Parish is taking towards tackling Climate Emergency. Climate Emergency was acknowledged by Wiltshire Council in March 2019, and our Parish will continue to play an active and important role in achieving the aim of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate-change>

Wiltshire Council are giving residents, businesses and local groups in the county the opportunity to have their say on their draft [Climate Strategy \[6.26MB\]](#), which will help to shape the next five years of the council's action on climate change. From **Wednesday 1 September to 23:59 on Sunday 17 October**, people can comment on the draft strategy, which covers seven delivery themes: transport; built environment; waste; green economy; energy generation, storage and distribution; natural environment, food and farming; and carbon neutral council.

Have your say by taking the [online survey](#).

Wiltshire will also be consulting on '[Our Natural Environment Plan](#)' - A Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) [strategy for Wiltshire](#), which looks at the future for Wiltshire's natural environmental assets and how the council can help protect and enhance them for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

The internet is not the only way to gather information and participate. Libraries have copies of the Climate Strategy, and are scheduling drop-in sessions. Please contact Wiltshire Council for these details: 0300 456 0100.

Box Parish Council is reviewing and assessing activities, looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact, collaborating with residents, businesses, organisations, Town and Parish Councils, supporting Wiltshire County Council.

Notable steps to date include:

- A Green Energy audit is underway to establish a baseline for the current PC energy consumption, and to set targets.
- The PC has been drawing up a revised Procurement Policy to include additional sustainability considerations on purchases made.
- The Pavilion Solar Panel Requirement has been set - three proposals are in the assessment phase, and are being evaluated against a comprehensive compliance matrix that includes a climate statement.
- The PC Tractor Shed is being assessed for Instal Solar Photovoltaic Cells (PV) system in order to reduce the carbon footprint.
- Cotswold Voluntary Wardens team will be planting approximately 2,000 Broadleaf trees and 4,000 hedge transplants in Box Parish over the period Nov 2021 - Feb 2022.

But what about you?



The efforts of each individual are every bit as important as political action for sustainability on the national and international stage. We can each take responsibility for doing what we can to rethink our behaviour and making day-to-day decisions for a sustainable lifestyle and society.

One way to understand the environmental impact of your day-to-day lifestyle and where you can make positive changes is using [UN carbon footprint calculator](#) or [WWF carbon calculator](#).

There are many ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and here are just some of them:

Reduce your energy use and bills....and save money! Did you know that reducing your room temperature by 1°C could save 310kg of carbon dioxide and £60 per year? Did you also know that washing clothes at 30°C uses around 57% less electricity than at higher temperatures?

Get free and impartial energy saving advice from the national, Government endorsed [Simple Energy Advice service](#) on 0800 444202 (freephone helpline), party of the [Energy Savings Trust](#) also provide information and resources to help make your home more energy efficient, reduce your carbon emissions and lower your energy bills. Further support and advice are offered at the Centre for Sustainable Energy <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice> email info@cse.org.uk telephone 0117 934 1400. [Warm and Safe Wiltshire](#) on 0800 038 5722 (freephone helpline) is a commitment by Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The initiative aims to give residents access to advice and support to **improve energy efficiency and fire safety** in the home. This initiative supports people who are unable to afford to heat their home and are exposed to potential health risks associated with living in cold homes, such as respiratory conditions.

Reduce food waste and buy local food

A third of the food prepared does not make it from farm to fork. Producing uneaten food squanders a whole host of resources—seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizer, hours of labour, money - and generates greenhouse gases at every stage. The food we waste is responsible for roughly 8 percent of global emissions. Buying **Wiltshire produce** supports Wiltshire's economy, reduces your 'food miles' and means you know exactly where your food has come from. It's fresher, it's tastier and it's good for Wiltshire.

Car travel

68% of all car journeys taken across the UK are under 5 miles (and 23% are under 1 mile). The latest [local authority carbon dioxide emissions data](#) shows transport is one of the largest contributors to Wiltshire's carbon footprint at 45%. If we just had just one car free day every week, we could save over £120 a year on petrol bills and around 300 kilograms of CO₂ emissions as well. By **driving more economically**, for instance driving smoothly, avoiding sharp acceleration and heavy braking and avoiding short journeys you can reduce your fuel consumption. Stick to the speed limits- going faster uses more fuel. Drive at 70mph and you'll use up to 9% more than at 60mph and up to 15% more than at 50mph.

A commuter can typically save around £1,000 a year by **car sharing** plus it is a great way of alleviating the stress caused by travel and reducing road and parking congestion. Liftshare <https://liftshare.com/uk> advise us that sharing regular journeys rather than travelling alone cuts your carbon footprint by over 10% a year.

Gardening

Green spaces are crucial for combating the effects of climate change, the more biodiverse those spaces are the better. **Plants** can reduce summer air temperatures, reduce pollutants, help with flooding and drought, encourage wildlife into our gardens and positively affect our physical and mental health. As well as all that, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it away.

Peatlands store more carbon than rainforest, but increasing damage to these landscapes is leading to loss of carbon and habitat. **Peat free** compost is now widely available and just as good, or why not make your own [compost](#) - it's a great way of recycling kitchen and garden waste and saves you money.

Power tools can generate a hefty carbon footprint, especially if they are petrol powered. Could you swap and use hand tools instead? Mowing less often saves you time and is better for biodiversity.

Lighting your garden at night can negatively affect wildlife- disrupting behaviour patterns, increasing risk of predation, and affecting breeding cycles. There are measure you can take to reduce these effects, dim white lights are less likely to affect wildlife than coloured bulbs. Turning off bulbs not in use or use timers if lights are essential for security. Consider using solar-powered lights to save energy.

Climate change makes water an important resource in your garden. **Using less water** in your garden not only saves you money, it helps the water industry ensure we all have water during peak demand, and don't forget water from your tap also has a carbon footprint!

Using mulches and homemade compost is one way of saving water, by keeping it in the soil there is less need to water your garden. Collecting, storing, and re-using makes use of the water that falls on your garden and can help with the expected increased frequency of water shortages. Why not invest in a water butt?

**There are a lot of ongoing and future schemes and plans on Box Parish Council's climate agenda.
We hope that you too will be able to implement some of these ideas.**

August 2021