

Parish of St Helier
Climate Change Emergency Working Group
Governing Document

1. Set Up and Authority

This document sets out the governance around the establishment and operation of a working group to develop a plan, which sets out how the Parish can become Carbon Neutral.

The authority of this group comes from the Constable who, has been charged by a Parish Assembly with producing and presenting this plan back to an Assembly by the end of 2019.

2. Background

At a Parish Assembly on 27th March 2019, Deputy Ward presented Projet 02/2019 'Climate Change Emergency'. The Assembly amended the Projet and approved the amended version (Appendix A contains Projet and Report).

The approved Project reads: *"to agree, as proposed by Deputy Ward of St Helier, that the Parish of St Helier should declare a climate change emergency, and aim to be carbon-neutral by 2025-2030. That the Constable be requested to draw up a plan to achieve this for presentation to the Parish Assembly by the end of 2019. To endorse the proposition of Deputy Ward and to request the Constable to advise the Parish Deputies and Senators of the decision of the Parish Assembly."*

In addition to the approval of the Projet, the minutes of the Assembly record that the Constable intended to set up a Working Party whose role will be to draw up a plan for presentation to a Parish Assembly before the end of 2019 and to establish baseline data in respect of the Parish's carbon footprint. The Constable also noted that it was not his intention to bring back anything that would be an extra cost to parishioners.

This document sets out the Terms of Reference for the Working Group identified by the Constable during the Assembly discussion.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the working group is to:

- a. Guide and oversee the development, preparation and presentation of a plan that sets out how the Parish can aim to become carbon-neutral by 2025-2030.
- b. Oversee work to establish the Parish's current carbon footprint.
- c. Support the presentation of this information to Parish Assembly during 2019

4. Scope

The scope of this project is captured in two elements:

- a. to consider and identify how the activities and services provided by the Parish can aim to become carbon-neutral by 2025-2030.
- b. To consider and identify how the Parish can influence those that work, visit and live in the Parish to also become carbon neutral by 2025-2030.

The Plan to be presented to the Assembly will be focussed on those elements within Parish control, i.e. part (a) of the scope but should also refer to actions and activities that can be undertaken in respect of part (b) of the scope.

5. Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- a. Identify, as far as reasonably practicable, and document the current carbon footprint of Parish activities and services and an indicative carbon footprint for the Parish as a whole.
- b. Produce a plan that sets out a programme of work that aims to deliver Parish activities and services with carbon neutrality by 2025-2030.

- c. Identify and document what the Parish can do to encourage those that live and work in the Parish to become carbon neutral by 2025-2030.

6. Membership

The Group will be chaired by the Constable and comprise self-nominated parishioners who wish to contribute to the project. The Constable may co-opt others to join the Working Group as appropriate.

The Group may invite experts to attend to provide assistance to their discussions.

The Parish Chief Executive Officer will attend meetings, support the group and oversee the production of the Plan.

The Parish Secretary will attend meetings, facilitate the group and document the Group's plan. The Parish Secretary and other Parish staff, as required, will support the work of the Group, providing research, reports and advice.

7. Deliverables

The Group is charged with delivering its objectives (A-C) in the format of three key documents:

- a. A report that sets out the current carbon footprint of Parish activities and services and an indicative carbon footprint for the Parish as a whole.
- b. A report that sets out a programme of work that aims to deliver Parish activities and services with carbon neutrality by 2025-2030. This report to include indicative implications, in terms of carbon footprint, finance, workforce, legal and existing policies.
- c. A report that identifies what the Parish can do to encourage those that work, visit and live in the Parish to become carbon neutral by 2025-2030.

8. Timeframe

The Parish Assembly requested that the Constable present the report by the end of 2019. To achieve this, the following key dates / milestones have been identified.

March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project 02/2019 Approved
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group Established• States debate Island wide Climate Change Emergency Proposition• Working Group first meeting
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group workshop 1 – Ideas and consideration of current carbon footprint
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group workshop 2 – Actions to deliver carbon neutrality for Parish activities and operations
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group workshop 3 – Encouraging carbon neutrality across the Parish
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group 'sign off' of current carbon footprint report (Deliverable A)• Working Group consider first draft of report (Deliverables B & C)
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Draft of Plan agreed
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise financial, workforce, legal, policy implications of plan• Working Group 'sign off' of Plan (Deliverables B & C)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present report to Parish Assembly

9. Communications

The Constables Office will manage communications concerning the project and its progress. The Constable will lead on communication matters; other members are asked to refer all communications and media enquiries to the Constable.

Communications and media releases will be included on the Working Group Agenda as necessary.

10. Resources

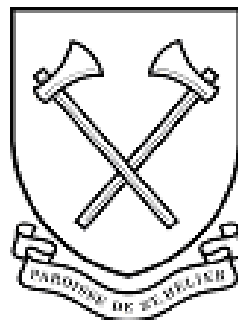
The project will be resourced by utilising existing staff within the Parish. Acknowledging that, in addition, some external expert advice may be needed when assessing the current carbon footprint.

PARISH OF ST HELIER

Climate Change Emergency

**For consideration by the Parish Assembly
on 27 March 2019**

**P.02/2019
As amended**



PROPOSITION

THE PARISHIONERS are asked to take into consideration and if deemed advisable:

to agree, as proposed by Deputy Ward of St Helier, that the Parish of St Helier should declare a climate change emergency, and aim to be carbon-neutral by 2025-2030. That the Constable be requested to draw up a plan to achieve this for presentation to the Parish Assembly by the end of 2019. To endorse the proposition of Deputy Ward and to request the Constable to advise the Parish Deputies and Senators of the decision of the Parish Assembly.

Projet as amended following votes at the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 27 March 2019

REPORT

Climate change should be considered the greatest long term threat to our way of life, our future security and well being.

Current action to combat the emissions of greenhouse gasses such as Carbon Dioxide and Methane, and to ultimately fight anthropomorphic driven climate change, are based around the Paris Agreement.

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>).

It has reached the point where, to achieve the goals set out during the Paris Agreement (ie. "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,") we need make a specific response.

The Paris Agreement was the best outcome that could be negotiated amongst all the nations of the world in a context where there is not yet a general understanding that an emergency response is possible. By definition the Paris Agreement, arising from a consensus of all the world's governments, could not represent a leading-edge position, not least because it had to be signed off by countries that earn major export income from fossil fuels (eg. Saudi Arabia, Australia).

However one of the big achievements of the Paris Agreement was recognition, at last, that a +2°C temperature cap is not safe and not acceptable.

The **I**ntergovernmental **P**anel on **C**limate **C**hange's (IPCC's) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible. However, this is entirely dependent on ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities and others.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>)

This makes clear that the Paris Agreement's best case temperature cap of +1.5°C will not:

1. prevent the Pacific and Indian Ocean atoll nations from being permanently flooded;
2. prevent permanent flooding of low-lying, heavily populated areas (Bangladesh, Vietnam, China, Egypt, etc. where over 100 million people live);
3. prevent the destruction of coral reefs around the world including the Great Barrier Reef;
4. prevent the mobilisation of the huge carbon stores in the Arctic (which will cause the release of CO₂ and methane that could exceed the emissions from all fossil fuels so far);
5. provide food security; and provide a foundation for military security and positive peace.

The impact on Jersey as a small island, and St Helier as its largest populated area will be significant, long lasting, and life changing.

A report from January 2018 outlines some of the major risks to Jersey:

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Analysis%20of%20Future%20Jersey%20indicators%20that%20are%20at%20high%20risk%20from%20climate%20change%2020180323%20DM.pdf>

I will not list the risks as the report itself goes into them in detail.

What would this proposition achieve?

This proposition would change the focus of the Parish of St Helier by including the issue of climate change onto the agenda of parish meetings and into the process of producing the parish plans. This will mean climate change impact is an integral feature of policy making.

The targets set are not a ceiling to what we can achieve. Indeed, they are achievable and a key starting point for future actions. With a defined focus from The Parish of St Helier we have the opportunity to demonstrate to our population that we can take action for the future good of all islanders. Our young people certainly need this assurance.

St Helier is Jersey's largest population centre. By our recognition of climate change as an emergency, we add our name to an ever growing list of forward thinking jurisdictions that lead the way in climate action.

The value of passing a specific proposition for delivering climate action is that it goes beyond business-as-usual and reform-as-usual. Special features of this

mode

are:

1. a very strong focus on the issue;
2. a strong priority for action and budgets relating to the issue;
3. delivery of solutions as a package (rather than piecemeal, incremental change);
4. delivery of solutions in a strong enough way to address future situations;
5. delivery of temporary protection and adaptation measures while prevention and restorative measures are put in place and while they achieve their full effect

This proposition enables policy makers to have climate change included as a key factor in their planning. It is time for us as a community, a parochial government and as citizens of the planet to have this consideration at the front and centre of our decision making. The legacy we leave for our children and beyond should be the measure of the success of the period of this Parish.

List of councils declaring climate emergency

(Principal) councils which have already passed motions declaring a Climate Emergency:

Bradford Metropolitan District Council - ([90% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030](#))

Brighton Hove City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Bristol City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Calderdale ([no fixed target date](#))

Cambridge City Council ([no new target date](#), campaign continues to press for a more ambitious target)

Carmarthenshire ([zero carbon by 2030](#))

Cheltenham ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Cornwall County Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Forest of Dean District Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Greater London Authority - (call for the Mayor to declare climate emergency)

Hastings Borough

Kirklees Metropolitan District Council - ([carbon neutral in line with IPCC carbon targets](#))

Lambeth Borough Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Lancaster City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))

Leicester City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2025-2030](#))

Lewes D.C.

Lewisham Borough Council

Manchester City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2038](#))

Mendip District Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Milton Keynes - (carbon neutral by 2030)
North Somerset Council ([net zero carbon by 2030](#))
Nottingham City Council - ([carbon neutral by 2028](#))
Oxford City Council - ([carbon neutrality target TBC](#))
Reading Borough Council - (to pursue zero carbon by 2030, but 'this date can only be achieved with substantial policy changes from national government'. - final motion on last 2 pages of [meeting agenda](#))
Reigate and Banstead B.C.
Scarborough Borough Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Sheffield City Council - ([carbon neutral asap](#))
Somerset
South Cambridgeshire
Stroud District Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Trafford Council - ([carbon neutrality target TBC](#))
Wiltshire County Council

Parish and town councils

Alnwick Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Frome Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Glastonbury Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Ladock Parish Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Langport Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Machynlleth Town Council - ([carbon neutral asap](#))
Oswestry Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Stithians Parish Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Totnes Town Council - ([carbon neutral by 2030](#))
Tywyn Town Council - ([carbon neutral as soon as possible](#))

More cities and Governments declaring a climate emergency can be found here:

<https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/city-by-city>

Useful References

<https://www.campaigncc.org/climateemergency.shtml>

<https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>

https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAn4PkBRCDARIsAGHmH3c-DWl29STgE8KzaXlxEAsQjojxlsMooFZ2d8sUeHJIBiWXe24ZMjQaArCQEALw_wcB
[https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Turning%20Point%20Report%20Contents%20and%20Chapter%201%20\(size%201.5mb\)%2020140822%20DM.pdf](https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Turning%20Point%20Report%20Contents%20and%20Chapter%201%20(size%201.5mb)%2020140822%20DM.pdf)

Financial and WoManpower impact of proposition.

The financial cost of this proposition is difficult to detail. Both in terms of pre-empting the contents of the Parish plans, and future policy. However, we have to consider the significant possible cost, both in financial and societal terms, of not taking this action.

Staff time will be required but this can be minimised by including the consideration of climate change throughout the planning process.

Deputy Rob Ward