



PENZANCE
COUNCIL

Climate Emergency Action Plan

Adopted 11 November 2019

Updated August 2023

The Climate Emergency

A message from your Mayor

Our world is changing and we need to change as well!

Our planet cannot keep absorbing all the carbon we are producing through burning fossil fuels; our climate is changing at an alarming rate.

Climate change is already having an impact across the world including extreme weather; threats to wildlife; and loss of food sources. Here in our parish we have experienced increased flooding and storms which have impacted people's lives and businesses.



Penzance Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and since then we have been working on this Action Plan. To achieve our goals, we will need the support of everyone: families and friends; local businesses; schools and colleges; and community groups.

As well as working hard to put our own house in order, we will also provide the support to make things happen across the parish. Funding will be made available for green initiatives as part of our grant scheme. By working together with lots of small projects across the parish, we can all help to make a real difference. These changes that we all put in place will act as a strong message to the government that Penzance is committed to a more sustainable future that puts the environment at the heart of decision making. We will also lobby Cornwall Council and central Government to take steps on a county and nation-wide scale.

We want to work with you to help make a difference that will help everyone as well as our planet!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Reynolds', written over a light blue line.

Councillor Stephen Reynolds
Penzance Town Mayor
August 2023



Putting Our Own House in Order

To start tackling climate change in our parish we need to lead by example. We have set out a range of actions that we aim to implement on a short, medium, and long-term basis. To make a real difference we are planning ahead and making positive changes to the way we deliver our services as a Council.

Our Short Term Aims (1-2 years)

Penlee Centre Offices / Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Use food sourced by local businesses at all Council events	✓ Yes	
Develop a Plastic Free Event Charter for Council events and for funded local events	✓ Yes	Plastic Free Event Charter
Reviewed waste management and recycling – we now have 2 recycling collections a week	✓ Yes	
Introduce recycling bins in all office areas	✓ Yes	
Switch to a green energy tariff for Council buildings (including Penlee House)		In progress
Reduce the amount of paper used – encourage Councillors to receive meeting paperwork digitally		Ongoing
Provide Climate Emergency training for staff and members	✓ Yes	Ongoing as more training opportunities arise
Develop a new Council Grants Scheme that includes a funding stream for green initiatives	✓ Yes	
Ensure that Penzance Council has no direct investments involving the fossil fuel industry	✓ Yes	Ongoing investigation into more ethical investments
Embed the Climate Emergency within staff PDRs	✓ Yes	
Gain Plastic Free Champion Status with Plastic Free Pz for Penlee House Shop and The Orangery	In Progress	The Orangery has been accredited , the shop is working towards this

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Switch to LED lighting in the gallery spaces		This has been done in most gallery spaces
Join the International Covenant of Mayors		

Leisure & Amenities Team

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Audit procurement across the board – introduce criteria that favours companies with environmental considerations	✓ Yes	
Use of composting in Penlee Park	✓ Yes	
Use of non-toxic slug repellent in Penlee Park	✓ Yes	
Install multi-waste bins in Penlee Park for general litter and mixed recycling	✓ Yes	Installed Apr 2021
Develop a Sustainable Environmental Policy for Penzance Council Open Spaces		
Where possible upgrade gardening equipment to be electric/battery powered	✓ Yes	
Pursue alternatives to glyphosate-based weed clearance	✓ Yes & Ongoing	New weed machine does not use chemicals but is diesel powered as electric options are not currently available. As new equipment/technology becomes available we will look to upgrade again.
Conduct a feasibility study for the installation of photovoltaic panels at Council offices in the future		

Councillors

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Councillors to receive meeting paperwork (agendas, reports, previous minutes) digitally		In progress
Work with the Penzance Twinning Associations to inspire our Twin Towns to draw up Climate Emergency Action Plans		

Our Medium Term Aims (6 years)

Penlee Centre & Penlee House Staff

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Develop an Environmental Asset Management Plan to reduce the Council's overall energy demand – consider installing double glazing and insulation		
Replace current single glazed windows with new double glazing	✓ Yes	Installed November 2022
Invest in new electric vehicles	✓ Yes	Summer 2023
Reduce car use by staff and members by introducing a cycle to work scheme (refurbishment of the gardeners' accommodation needed to provide shower facilities)		
Organise an exhibition at Penlee House which illustrates ways in which zero fossil fuel society operated locally in the past		

Our Long Term Aims (8-10 years)

Penlee Centre Offices

Actions	Complete?	Notes
Council buildings to be fitted with photovoltaic panels – a feasibility study is needed to inform this in the Short Term		



We Will Call For

As a town council, we can't achieve all of our ambitious plans on our own. Your Councillors will be lobbying Cornwall Council and central Government to take action on a range of measures to make positive change on a county and nation-wide scale. They will also be working with local organisations, businesses, and community groups to achieve change at a local level. To do this they will be working under four themes: Community Leadership, Reduction, Regeneration, and Resilience.

Community Leadership

What	How	Who we will work with / lobby	Notes
General	Work with and lobby Cornwall Council to address the Climate Emergency	Cornwall Council, Local MP	Jan 2021 - Letter to Local MP re: the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
General	Ensure that this Action Plan is included in the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan	PZ Neighbourhood Plan	In progress
Housing	Call to establish one or more co-housing communities	Cornwall Community Land Trust, Live West	

Reduction

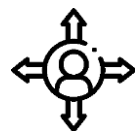
What	How	Who we will work with / lobby	Notes
Lifestyle	Lobby for more specialised recycling facilities eg. Tetra drinks cartons	Cornwall Council	
Lifestyle	Develop an electric car charging point strategy	Cornwall Council	
Lifestyle	Lobby Cornwall Council to support the extension of their car club to Penzance	Cornwall Council, Co Cars	Jan 2021 - Talks started with Co Cars Apr 2021 - Co Cars survey
Increase Public Transport	Lobby the One Public Transport for Cornwall to create an integrated and affordable system	Cornwall Council, GWR, Transport for Cornwall	
Vehicle Reduction	Lobby for a traffic free town centre	Cornwall Council, Penzance BID, Sustainable Penzance	Sep 2020 - Healthy Streets Pz
Vehicle Reduction	Lobby Cornwall Council to implement a Cycle Routes Policy and develop a Master Plan	Cornwall Council	
Vehicle Reduction	Lobby for a freight transfer depot outside of town to reduce the number of lorries coming through the town centre	Cornwall Council, Isles of Scilly Steamship Company	
Circular Economy	Champion the 'circular economy' where waste products from one process become the raw materials for another	Cornwall Council, Parliament	

Regeneration

What	How	Who we will work with / lobby	Notes
Bio-Diversity	Lobby for a change to the cutting regime for verges/open spaces	Cornwall Council	June 2020 - New verge-cutting policy adopted
Bio-Diversity	Lobby to create wildlife corridors and encourage 're-wilding' (keeping road verges and border wild)	Cornwall Council. Cornwall Wildlife Trust	
Bio-Diversity	Lobby for a law to prevent concreting over gardens for parking spaces	Cornwall Council, Parliament	

Resilience

What	How	Who we will work with / lobby	Notes
Extreme Weather	Lobby for a new approach to emergency planning (What can WE plan?)	Local Resilience Forum, Red Cross, Royal Voluntary Service, Cornwall Council	
Flood Prevention	Campaign for a breakwater and other flood prevention to protect homes and livelihoods	Environment Agency, Cornwall Council, PZ Regen Partnership	



How we can support change in the community

We want to support local people to make local change at a grass roots level. Under our new grants scheme, funding will be available for green initiatives and projects.

We are already working closely with [Sustainable Penzance](#) to help raise awareness of the climate emergency across of the parish. They were awarded £8,500 in 2020 to develop a Community Toolkit and an online hub which provides local residents with tips and advice about how to make simple changes that make a real difference.

We are also working with our partners [Penzance BID](#) and [Plastic Free Penzance](#) to encourage sustainable change in the business and tourism sectors. In order to help our community further we need to hear from you.

Here is a list of the kinds of things we could support you with:

- Enable surveys and focus groups to comment on local issues
- Support for tool-sharing and seed swaps on our allotment sites
- Establish a [‘Library of Things’](#)
- Introduce an annual prize and award ceremony for the street/business/school that has taken the most action
- Providing a communal composting facility for allotment holders
- Develop an online food hub
- Support a regular [Green Open Homes](#) weekend in Penzance
- Support for new and existing [Repair Cafés](#)
- Sponsorship for horticultural training courses
- Work with local groups to assist with practical solutions
- Transform neglected or derelict areas into green spaces through [Pocket Parks](#)
- Establish a community orchard similar to [Newquay Community Orchard](#)

If you have an idea for a project but need some support to get it off the ground, apply for funding from [our grant scheme](#).



**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

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