



# **Carbon Footprint Reduction Policy**

## Document Control

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Owner	Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Group (CFRWG)
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Related documents	Carbon Footprint Reduction Action Plan

Working group members	CLlr Paul Bidwell CLlr Paul Byron CLlr Stuart Foston CLlr Roger Meakes CLlr Michael Gbadebo (Chairman)
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# Introduction

There is strong consensus within the international scientific community that climate change is occurring and is caused by human activity. Bracknell Town Council is taking steps to reduce its carbon emissions with an overall aim of reducing the negative impact that our organisation's activities have on the environment. Economically, morally and environmentally, this makes good sense.

The scope of this policy is mainly focused on efforts to reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption within our own operations where we have greater influence, but alongside this we will continuously use our influence to promote carbon emissions reduction and clean energy usage to our councillors, staff, residents and partners.

## Our vision

This Carbon Reduction Policy outlines Bracknell Town Council's commitment to meeting the Government's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 as set out in the amended Climate Change Act 2008.

We will achieve this by:

- embedding (and prioritising) achieving carbon neutrality into everything we do
- and having an on-going programme of investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon offset initiatives.

*"Standing by is not an option. Reaching net zero by 2050 is an ambitious target, but it is crucial that we achieve it to ensure we protect our planet for future generations."*

Prime Minister Theresa May – June 12, 2019

## Our aim

Achieve an average annual carbon footprint reduction of **2.5%** from our own operation.

## Our commitments

1. Establish and maintain a Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Group (CFRWG) to own this policy.
2. Ensure that we have a performance-based annual Carbon Footprint Reduction Action Plan (CFRAP) in place.
3. Ensure that the CFRWG meets at least **twice a year** to review the CFRAP and present carbon footprint reduction recommendations, through the committee structure, to the Environmental Services Committee.
4. Aspire to ensure that at least **99%** of our waste is diverted from landfill by reducing our waste, recycling, reducing and reusing where possible.

5. Measure and publish (on our website), by the **end of January** of each year, a carbon footprint report, the scope of which is defined as:
  - a. Energy, water and fuel consumption in our buildings (monitored via utility bills and meter data)
  - b. Fuel consumptions by the council's vehicle fleets and machinery (monitored via fuel records)
6. Increase carbon efficiency in terms of energy consumed per floor area within our own estate and services.
7. Invest in highly energy-efficient plant and equipment to reduce CO<sup>2</sup>, where commercially viable.
8. Procure energy to minimise costs and environment impact.
9. Reduce the use of plastics within our estate.
10. Ensure all future plans and policies takes this document into consideration, by answering this basic question:
  - a. How does the plan/policy support the aim outlined in this Carbon Footprint Reduction Policy?
11. Produce and maintain an annual tree planting programme to help offset our carbon emissions.
12. Introduce into our procurement supplier selection process, a minimum requirement for an environmental policy.
13. Promote climate change and carbon emission reduction awareness to councillors, staff, residents and partners.
14. Ensure we operate within all environmental regulations as imposed by UK law.
15. Review this policy document once in every election circle to ensure that it continues to meet our aim and local priorities.

## Baseline

In 2017, Bracknell Town Council has a carbon footprint of **176** tonnes (metric) CO<sup>2</sup>. This is composed of energy (60%), vehicles (31.7%), tools (3.3%) and water (5%). We used a total of 8505 cubic metres of water. We paid **£77,056** in electricity (£15,009), gas (£14,859), water (£26,129) and fuel (£21,059) bills in **2017/18**.

## Conclusion

The Council has ultimate responsibility for this policy but recognises that every individual, councillor, staff and partner must contribute to the success of the aim we have set out in this document.