

A hand is shown from the bottom left, gently holding a single green leaf. The background is a soft-focus field of many green leaves, creating a natural and vibrant atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

# PLANNING AND DELIVERING LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

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# What is climate action?

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- **Mitigation** – reducing the carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.
- **Adaptation** – responses to the climate changes that are already happening.
- **Nature Recovery** – including offsetting the impact from past development.



Photo © Hulme Community Garden



Photo © Black & Veatch

What any council can do, regardless of size (there is published guidance)

- Forge links with any initiatives by your local planning authority as well as any voluntary sector networks in your county.
- Contact neighbouring parishes to discover what action they are taking that you might support in some way.
- Contact existing local climate action groups, offering support in terms of publicity and meeting space if not actual funding.

# Respond to planning applications



Does the proposed design aim to minimize energy requirements?



Does the application justify any use of carbon-intensive materials?



Is the use of reclaimed or recycled materials apparent in the application?



Does the application address standards for energy efficiency?



Are new homes to be fitted with a source of renewable energy?



Are sites allocated for new housing easily accessible by walking / cycling / public transport?

# And furthermore...

Does the application avoid loss of local nature sites and green spaces?

Where the application includes a new open space, does it include sufficient new native tree coverage and other plant life?

Does the application support low-carbon vehicles, for example, with electric vehicle charging points easily accessible?

Does the application specify that LED lights are to be used?

Does the application propose building on a flood plain?

Does the application include where appropriate water saving measures such as using water butts, toilet flushers that save water and runoff water in concrete areas?

# Further steps in our own area

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- Review the council's own property (there may not be any of course), landholding and operations to see if carbon emissions could be reduced.
- Consider how nature recovery might be supported on green spaces we control, bearing in mind the duty to consider biodiversity in our actions that is reconfirmed for all local councils under the Environment Act 2021 and for which there is a model policy<sup>1</sup> shared with NALC and approved by DEFRA officers.



A vibrant, lush jungle scene with a path leading through dense greenery towards a waterfall in the distance. The scene is filled with various tropical plants, including palm trees, ferns, and large-leafed plants. The path is made of dirt and is flanked by thick vegetation. In the background, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff face. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of a thriving, natural environment.

ONCE WE BEGIN TO SEE A WAY THROUGH THE  
CLIMATE ACTION JUNGLE, WE STILL NEED  
OTHER PEOPLE'S HELP TO MAKE THE JOURNEY



# Community Involvement

- Council working groups (with councillors)
- Local volunteering and initiatives
- Invite local groups to the Annual Parish Meeting
- Neighbourhood Plan events
- Local “Future Fair” with a wide remit
- Kendal Climate Change Citizens Jury<sup>2</sup>
- Members of national organisations – Locality, Friends of the Earth, Transition, Green Party, Social Enterprise, Action with Communities in Rural England, Redeeming Our Communities, Incredible Edible.....



# Sometimes a single initiative can kick things off...



- Antrobus Community Kitchen Garden<sup>3</sup> is an inclusive and social space where anyone from the village can participate in growing fresh food for themselves whilst part of a wider group
- The Kitchen Garden originally operated as a committee of the Parish Council, who seed funded the polytunnel
- It opened in 2011, and from Sep 2018 it became an independent village organisation
- Produce is on sale in the shop and open days are held annually.



## Holme Valley Climate Action<sup>4</sup>

The parish council will..

- seek a shared community vision of the challenges facing us with the Climate Emergency and the actions proposed, through meetings, events, website, social media
- support our local community organisations to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- strengthen our community identity and social cohesion, by building our Holme Valley brand, promoting our strengths and values
- build community capacity (knowledge sharing, skills and networks) to carry out the actions proposed

Some possible actions – there are many more depending on location

#### TRAVEL

- Installing electric vehicle charging points.
- Car sharing scheme
- Encouraging active travel
- Expanding the network of bicycle lanes and footpaths
- Supporting homeworking by providing wi-fi enabled spaces and warm spaces.

#### ENERGY

- Switching to a sustainable energy supplier
- Generating sustainable energy, either by building or a larger scheme
- Energy efficiency (e.g. insulation)
- Public building retrofit

#### BIODIVERSITY

- Tree and shrub planting
- Rewilding/wildlife friendly planning (from verges to larger areas)
- Working with local landowners to manage land for wildlife.
- Cutting the use of pesticides

#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION / REDUCING WASTE

- Create new allotments / community orchard.
- 'Buy local' campaign.
- Local produce markets
- Community fridge

# Environmental Planning Guidance

- Basic Principles
- **Principal Activities**
- Common Techniques
- Choosing Materials and Products
- Choosing Contractors
- Legal Responsibilities and Powers
- Further guidance and good practice

- A. Template for a climate action plan
- B. Template for project appraisal
- C. Local councils' powers and opportunities around climate change



# SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

- SLCC advisor & Climate Action webpage<sup>5</sup>
- SLCC & NALC training events
- NALC Climate Change webpage<sup>6</sup>  
& Climate Emergency Network<sup>7</sup>
- County associations
- Local networks (Warwickshire Climate Alliance,  
Low Carbon Warwickshire Network)
- CSE webinars and other training
- Other national bodies and networks
- Local Nature Action Plans guidance<sup>8</sup>



# The Great Collaboration

[www.greatcollaboration.uk/for-local-councils/](http://www.greatcollaboration.uk/for-local-councils/)

- Individuals can log in to get advice and register their actions
- Councils can discover by postcode what is (or isn't) already happening in their area
- There is already a toolkit for local councils on the site - more collective actions by councils and local groups will be added soon
- Following the Herefordshire pattern, we are planning a network of local link people
- [office@greatcollaboration.uk](mailto:office@greatcollaboration.uk)



Partnership working is not about making things easier, it's about more work for a better-quality result



Photo © Community Transport Association

**But I love it when a plan comes together!**



Photo © Orchard Community Energy



Photo © Co-Operatives UK

# Acknowledgements and Links

1. [www.slcc.co.uk/climate-action/](http://www.slcc.co.uk/climate-action/) under biodiversity
2. [www.kendalclimatejury.org](http://www.kendalclimatejury.org)
3. [www.facebook.com/AntrobusCommunityKitchenGarden](https://www.facebook.com/AntrobusCommunityKitchenGarden)
4. [www.holmevalleyclimateaction.co.uk](http://www.holmevalleyclimateaction.co.uk)
5. [www.slcc.co.uk/climate-action/](http://www.slcc.co.uk/climate-action/)
6. [www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change)
7. [www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/nalc-national-networks](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/nalc-national-networks)
8. [beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf](http://beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf)