



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Action Consultation

Climate change is happening.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Our vision and commitments**
- **The climate action plan**
- **Putting our own house in order**
- **Supporting change in the community**

www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

SCAN QR CODE



To submit feedback
online through the
town council's website

MAYORS FOREWORD

The Climate Emergency is changing our world and we must change too. Our planet, our only home, is in great danger. It is not only global warming that is a threat, but also the mistreatment of our environment; landscape degradation, resource depletion and devastated wildlife are plain to see.

The Climate Change Act requires the UK to make substantial reductions in its carbon emissions by 2050. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change, and this requires action at a national and international level as well as local. Local councils like Tenterden Town Council also have a role. As local leaders, we aim to achieve outcomes beyond what can be achieved through our own legal powers and duties.

The good news is that there is much to gain from changing to low carbon living. Local government, local people, local businesses, can all benefit from working together to improve the sustainability and resilience of our shared environment. Individuals can change their own behaviour and can join with fellow citizens to establish environmental initiatives in the town. We have a vision of Tenterden thriving through sustainability.

Tenterden Town Council is already developing a Neighbourhood Plan with a particular emphasis on our environment. The council has begun the task of 'putting its own house in order' and has offered support to community groups like Plastic Free Tenterden to campaign for the reduction of single-use plastics in the town.

As a responsible Town Council, it is our duty to work tirelessly for our community to implement positive changes as a contribution to managing climate change. We invite you to join us in working on our most important and most immediate project.

Cllr John Crawford, Mayor of Tenterden



THE UK'S COMMITMENT TO NET ZERO

The UK is committed by law to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This means that all emissions of greenhouse gases will either need to be eliminated or offset by carbon negative measures.

This will involve many changes to the way we live our lives, including how we heat our homes, how and where we work and how we travel. The UK has made significant progress in reducing carbon emissions over the last 30 years, however, the scale of change needed over the next 30 years will be substantial and will affect everyone.

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

The scale of change needed to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 means that everyone will have to contribute, including individuals, businesses, the energy industry and government at all levels.

That includes Tenterden Town Council and the people who live, work and shop in Tenterden.

The Climate Action Consultation Document sets out the many steps the town council can take, both by itself and with partners, in response to the climate emergency. The next step is for the Council to listen to the views of people and businesses in the Town and other stakeholders, including KCC and ABC and neighbouring villages.

We want to hear your view about the developing plan and what you think the Council should be doing in response to the climate emergency.

This consultation phase will run from 26th October to 21st December 2022. The final Plan will then be submitted to the full council for approval at an early 2023 meeting. There are several ways in which you can let the council know your thoughts during the consultation.

Residents and businesses can submit their feedback and ideas online, through the Town Council's website: tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-surveys

Paper copies of the consultation questions are available at the **Town Hall**.

There will also be a drop-in session in December at the Town Hall to gather feedback in person.

■ The drop-in session will take place at **10.00am-12.30 on Saturday, 3rd December.**

Residents, businesses and stakeholders can also write or email to us to let us know their response to the proposed Plan.

Write to: The Town Clerk, Tenterden Town Council, Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden, TN30 6AN

Email: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk



THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

There are two distinct elements of the plan.

■ **Putting our own house in order.** This is about reducing TTC's own carbon footprint and enhancing its resilience in the face of climate risks. It is about achieving TTC's own target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

■ **Supporting change in the community.** This is about helping the local community, including local businesses, third sector organisations and citizens, to reduce their own carbon footprint.

When considering this plan, it is important to recognise that Tenterden Town Council is at the lowest tier of local government and has limited powers and resources. The main levers of policy in these areas and the main sources of funding lie elsewhere.

In many areas it will be necessary to work closely with Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council to achieve our ambitions. It will also be necessary to work in partnership with the people of Tenterden, with local businesses and community groups.

Where partnership working is not possible or fruitful, Tenterden Town Council will lobby for positive change in line with its ambition and objectives.

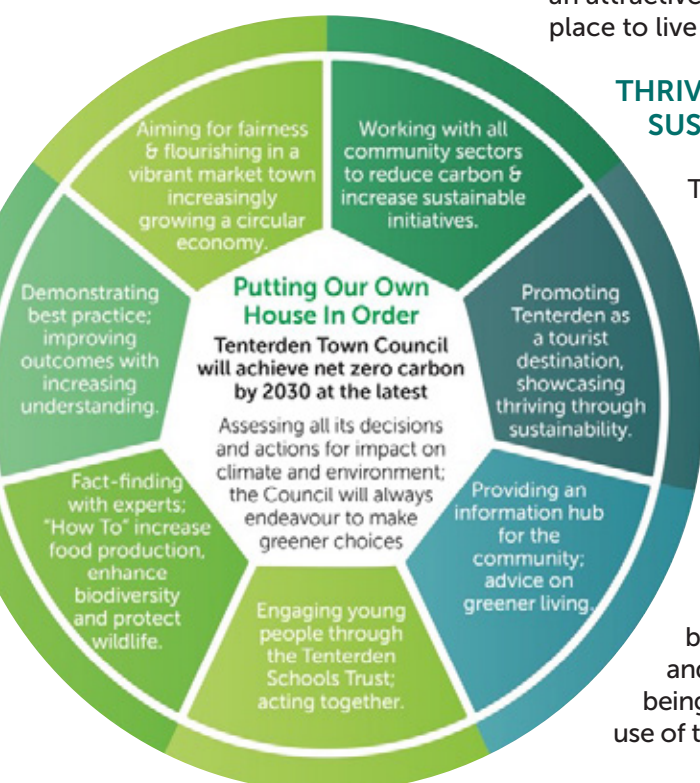
OUR VISION AND COMMITMENTS

We want Tenterden and the people who live and work in it to flourish, by becoming one of the most sustainable places to live, work and play.

The Town Council aims to position Tenterden as a leading community in sustainable living, boosting the quality of life for all its citizens and making the town a

shining example for others. The Town Council will endeavour to ensure the costs and benefits of any changes it has influence over are fairly distributed throughout the population.

The Town Council has a vision of a prospering Tenterden – demonstrating the benefits of sustainable living, showing the town evolving and remaining an attractive and desirable place to live and work.



THRIVING THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

The Town Council will enable access to a broad range of information to help businesses adapt and develop, as well as helping residents in making changes to their lifestyles that can increase sustainable living. We aim for a 'win-win' outcome where everyone can benefit economically and improve their well-being, whilst reducing their use of the earth's resources.





PUTTING OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER

As part of its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050, the objective is for energy use in TTC buildings, machinery and vehicles to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will be achieved by:

REDUCING ENERGY USE AS FAR AS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE

Insulate all TTC buildings to the highest level practically possible, replace inefficient appliances with energy efficient equivalents and encourage efficient behaviour and practices by users of the buildings.

The planned refurbishment of the Town Hall will bring this important and historic community building up to the best possible levels of energy efficiency, and make full use of the potential for renewable, low carbon heat and renewable power generation.

ELIMINATING THE USE OF GAS AND OIL BY 2030

Replace all heating systems, vehicles, plant and machinery with the best available electric or low carbon alternatives.

REDUCING EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRICITY USE

Where practical and economic to do so, consider installing solar PV panels or other means of renewable electricity generation on Town Council premises and land. Reduce carbon emissions and cost of electricity by shifting use to the most favourable times of the day. Consider the installation of battery storage and other forms of energy storage (such as hot water storage).

MINIMISING CARBON EMISSIONS EMBEDDED IN PURCHASED GOODS, MATERIALS AND SERVICES

To achieve carbon neutrality, eliminate or reduce the carbon emissions caused by bought in goods, materials and services. Review current procurement approaches with a view to minimising lifecycle carbon emissions.

Consider options to source goods, materials, and services locally. Improve the efficiency of water usage and waste-water discharges. Review current processes for recycling and waste management and identify immediate and medium-term improvements.

IMPLEMENT CARBON NEGATIVE MEASURES TO OFFSET RESIDUAL CARBON EMISSIONS

It will not be possible to eliminate all carbon emissions from its own activity by 2030. To achieve carbon neutrality the Council will need to offset its remaining emissions. The most direct means of offset would be to export renewable electricity to the grid. High-quality, independently verified commercial offsets do not benefit the local community and should only be used as a last resort.

EMBEDDING CLIMATE IMPACTS IN ALL TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES AND DECISIONS

Review current Council procedures and policies to assess their climate impact and make changes where necessary. Require all Council decisions and policies to take explicit account of the impact on carbon emissions and sustainability more generally, including the impact on emissions in the wider community. Incorporate carbon accounting into the Council's procedures, including setting annual carbon budgets and taking account of the value of carbon emissions or savings into decision making.

BIODIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

The overall objective is to maximise the sustainability of the management of Council land by implementing nature friendly practices, including reviewing chemical/pesticide use and generally ensuring Council operations protect and enhance biodiversity in its areas of responsibility.

SUPPORTING CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY

This section is primarily about helping the residents, workers and users of local shops and services reduce their carbon footprint and live more environmentally sustainable lives. It will be for individuals, businesses and community groups to minimise and (eventually) eliminate their carbon footprints. Tenterden Town Council aims to work with partners to make more sustainable choices easier, recognising the limits on its resources, powers and duties.

DECARBONISING ENERGY USE

The actions needed to decarbonise homes and businesses in Tenterden are similar to those needed to achieve carbon neutrality in Tenterden Town Council's own premises. In addition, there may be a role for community energy schemes, involving collective action by residents and businesses to produce and distribute affordable, sustainable energy.

Tenterden Town Council could support residents and businesses by providing information about how best to reduce energy use, signposting organisations and companies that can help including information about incentives, charges, grants and subsidies available to homes and businesses and how to take advantage of them. The Council could also liaise with local energy companies and other energy service providers to help ensure they invest to support the pace and scale of change in energy use in the town.

Finally, the Council could provide practical support and advice to any community energy initiatives that might emerge.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

In line with its overall vision, the Town Council would like Tenterden to be a leader in sustainable transport in small towns. It should be recognised that public transport, roads, and public footpaths and cycle paths in the town are primarily the responsibility of Kent CC and national government. The Town Council will need to work in partnership with other bodies to achieve its ambition.

A sustainable transport system would involve greater role of public transport, increased use of active walking and cycling as well as the

replacement of petrol and diesel vehicles with electric equivalents.

Potentially, this could be achieved through

- Lobbying for low cost, frequent bus services connecting the town centre with outlying parts of Tenterden, neighbouring villages and major towns.

- Improved provision for electric vehicle charging in the Town.

- Surveying the local area to determine where existing pathways could be improved for cycling and walking

Tenterden Town Council will commence development of its vision and strategy for sustainable transport in the town for the 2030s and beyond as resources become available. This vision will form the basis of engagement with residents, local businesses, neighbouring parishes, the third sector, transport service providers and the higher tiers of government.

SUSTAINABLE SOURCING OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND RECYCLING

The overall objective is to achieve a decrease in the amount of carbon embedded in bought-in goods and services as well as decreasing the use of non-sustainable materials consumption.

This takes steps towards a circular economy with the aim of building a more resilient community.

This will be achieved by

- Raising awareness of the lifecycle of materials, products and services; origins to ends, and the best ways to improve sustainability, including reuse and recycling.

- Promoting awareness of the options available locally for

reuse and recycling. Promoting community initiatives, such as a Repair Cafe and TerraCycle.

- Working with all sectors of the community to support local supply of goods and services, including promoting a scheme for certificating sustainable local businesses and criteria for hosting sustainable events and markets, particularly those that use Council premises.

- Encouraging all sectors of the community to use less resources more sustainably and reduce waste, providing information about how they might do this.

BIODIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

The overall objective is to contribute to enhancing and extending biodiversity and sustainable land practices with partners, including local farmers and landowners.

This will be achieved by:

- Raising public awareness of the countryside, both productively and for leisure/well-being.

- Scrutinising and ensuring Council operations protect and enhance biodiversity in its areas of responsibility.

- Conducting partnership working to facilitate local biodiversity projects with non-governmental organisations, whether business or the third sector.

- Consulting with ABC and KCC on land management and use beyond TTC's direct control.

The next sections describe the plan for each of these categories and then specifies the detailed actions that the TTC proposes, in the short (before 2025), medium (2025-2030) and longer term (after 2030).



TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL'S ACTIONS

1		REFURBISHMENT OF THE TOWN HALL	
	a	Finalise plans for refurbishment of the town hall and obtain planning approvals.	Short term
	b	Insulate the building to the highest standards consistent with heritage status.	Medium term
	c	Install state-of-the-art heating systems and controls.	Medium term
	d	Consider installation of solar panels if they are economic and practical.	Medium term
2		ENERGY EFFICIENCY	
	a	Develop plan and policies for replacing inefficient appliances.	Short Term
	b	Implement plan and policies for renewal of appliances.	Medium term
	c	Identify best practices changes to policies and behaviour to drive energy efficiency.	Short Term
3		ELECTRIFICATION OF TTC VEHICLES AND PLANT	
	a	Develop plan and policies for replacing petrol vehicles and plant.	Short Term
	a	Implement plan and policies for vehicles and plant.	Medium term
	b	Develop facilities for charging TTC and employee EVs and electric plant.	Medium term
4		NET ZERO AND OFFSET	
	a	Calculate likely 2030 scope 1 and 2 emissions (water and electricity)	Short term
	b	Calculate likely 2030 scope 3 emissions (bought in materials, services, waste)	Short Term
	c	Develop strategies for carbon negative measures and offset.	Short Term
	d	Develop a full TTC plan for achieving and sustaining carbon neutrality by 2030.	Short Term
5		REDUCING WASTE AND RECYCLING	
	a	Review council activities and processes for waste production and management.	Short Term
	b	Introduce measures to minimise waste including targets.	Short Term
	c	Introduce measures to maximise recycling including targets.	Short Term
	d	Adopt good practice guidelines for electronic services and 'paperwork'.	Short Term
	e	Ensure staff training in sustainable practices including procurement, use, disposal.	Short Term
	f	Engage with ABC to improve storage facility behind Leisure Centre - green waste.	Short Term
6		NATURE - BIODIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE	
	a	Establish network of experts to ensure quality information and advice.	Short Term
	b	Develop policies and practices for promoting nature in all council owned spaces.	Short Term
	c	Review monitoring of use of chemicals/pesticides to identify improvements.	Short Term
	d	Survey biodiversity in public spaces and develop plans for enhancement.	Short Term

7		ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS	
	a	Develop information materials about reducing energy use and carbon in buildings.	Short term
	b	Provide information about available grants, subsidies and incentives.	Short term
	c	Signposting to relevant organisations providing support, including KCC and ABC.	Short term
	d	Establish good working contacts with local energy networks on decarbonisation.	Short term
	e	Establish the capability to provide practical support to community energy.	Short term
8		TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT	
	a	Develop a transport vision and strategy for 2030s in consultation with local people.	Short term
	b	Establish TTC and residents' preference for bus transport to, from and within the town.	Short term
	c	Lobby KCC and others for improved public transport services.	Short term
	d	Work with ABC, KCC and others to enhance EV charging facilities in the town.	Medium term
	e	Determine opportunities to enhance walking and cycling routes.	Short term
	f	Review opportunities to develop useful active travel routes on TTC land.	Short term
9		BIODIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE	
	a	Raising public awareness of the Countryside Code.	Short term
	b	Provide information on Good Practice when in the countryside in general.	Short term
	c	Provide information on Good Practice when in farmland.	Short term
	d	Carry out Youth Engagement- pilot scheme - Homewood School.	Short term
	e	Provide "Doorstep Walks" leaflet and online info.	Short term
	d	Conduct partnership working to facilitate enhanced biodiversity with area NGOs.	Short Term
	e	Liaise with ABC to secure compost delivery for residents.	Short Term
	f	Promote open dialogue on green spaces with stakeholders, KCC, ABC.	Short Term
	h	Host Public Information events with Experts and Key Stakeholders.	Short Term
10		WASTE AND RECYCLING	
	a	Raise awareness of issues in managing waste and recycling.	Short term
	b	Promote options to reduce waste and increase recycling.	Short term
	c	Support community events with the above aims.	Short term
	d	Endorse Plastic Free Tenterden initiative.	Short term
	e	Welcome initiatives from providers of schemes with waste reduction objectives.	Short term
	f	Publicise waste schemes available to local businesses through ABC and KCC.	Short term
	g	Develop guidelines for "Sustainable Markets/Events Charter"	Short term
	h	Develop guidelines for a "Sustainable Business Certificate"	Short/Medium



**We need to work together to lower carbon emissions,
increase resilience and become more sustainable.
This Climate Action Consultation Document is Tenterden
Town Council's proposed response to the Climate Crisis.
We now want to hear your views.**

Respond to the consultation online - scan the QR code on the front cover, or visit
www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-surveys

Paper copies of the consultation questions are available at the Town Hall.

Drop-in session 10.00am-12.30 on Saturday, 3rd December to gather feedback in person.

Consultation starts: 26th October 2022

Consultation ends: 21st December 2022

CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL:

E-MAIL: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

PHONE: 01580 762271

WEBSITE: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

TWITTER: twitter.com/tenterdenc

INSTAGRAM: [www.instagram.com
/tenterdentowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/tenterdentowncouncil)

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