
VISION

For the Harrogate District to become a leading sustainable carbon neutral District, with an improved quality of life, where the annual volume of greenhouse gases per person is minimised and any remaining carbon emissions are effectively neutralised.

MISSION

- To assist people, communities, business and policy makers within the Harrogate District to:
 - recognise the need to move to a carbon neutral society
 - implement achievable lifestyle and working practice changes
- To achieve a carbon neutral society that will secure a sustainable climate for future generations, while maintaining a high standard of living, within the time frame set out by the International Panel on Climate Change.

STRAPLINE

Securing the District's future.

GOALS

1. Reduce the District's annual carbon emissions by 94% (from 2010 levels*) by 2050. With an interim target of 45% reduction by 2030.
2. Ensure sufficient carbon capture processes and techniques are available to remove 6% of carbon emissions by 2050.
3. To engage positively and constructively with people, communities, business and policy makers to achieve our vision for the District.

* Adjusted for population

OBJECTIVES

1. **Buildings**
Improve energy efficiency to reduce energy demand by 50%* by 2050.
2. **Energy**
Maximise use of renewable energy in the District to 94% by 2050, with an interim target of 45% 2030. Raise the percentage of renewable energy generated in the District to match local energy consumption by 2050, with an interim target of producing 45% of local consumption by 2030.
3. **Food**
To reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated from food (production, processing, transport, packaging and waste) to 94%* by 2050, with an interim target of 45%*.
4. **Transport**
Increase availability and uptake of sustainable transport while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Reduce carbon emissions generated by transport by 94%* by 2050 with and interim target of 45% reductions by 2030.
5. **Carbon Capture**
Double the acreage of woodland in the district by 2030 and triple it by 2050. From 21% coverage in 2010 to 42% by 2030 and 63% by 2050, to ensure sufficient carbon capture to offset 6% of emissions by 2050.

*From 2010 baseline

STRATEGIES

1. **Buildings**
Build up relationships within and without the Borough, to raise awareness.
 2. **Energy**
Promote or assist in developing projects that "power up" the use of renewable energy from a variety of sources and carbon neutral energy produced without using fossil fuels.
 3. **Engagement**
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Raise awareness and prompt action for the key groups of local government, commercial enterprise and individuals.

- Differentiating the message for those who are already active, willing but not active and unwilling/unable.
- Ensuring sufficient infrastructural and cultural change so that everyone can access a low carbon lifestyle.

4. Food

- i. Work with local farmers; food processing businesses and retailers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food.
- ii. Raise awareness with stakeholders, within the sector, and with the public, of the carbon footprint of food and the options for a low carbon diet.

5. Transport

Help to establish a sustainable transport network across the district and ignite a modal shift in transport behaviour.

6. Carbon Capture

Work with local and regional stakeholders to develop the Knaresborough Forest and establish afforestation in Nidderdale as part of the Northern Forest Project.

7. Encourage the creation of local 'green' jobs in the district, so that a carbon neutral environment can have a positive effect on the economy.
8. Campaign for the implementation of low carbon sustainable strategies with local and national government as necessary.

TACTICS

1. Raise Awareness

- a. Run a series of events for the general public.
 - b. Develop marketing and communication plans.
 - c. Maintain a presence in the local media.
 - d. Raise our profile with local business
 - i. Join local business groups
 - ii. Identify and engage with key local employers
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- e. Seek to influence local politicians
- f. Produce guidance on 'what-to-do now' for individuals and businesses (e.g. what car to buy)
- g. Be a repository of accurate local information

2. **Establish a Climate Alliance**

Work with Harrogate Borough Council (HBC), businesses and community groups to form a collaborative group to drive a district wide plan to transition to a low carbon economy.

3. **Buildings**

- a. Form partnerships with knowledgeable organisations
- b. Influence and then monitor the Local Plan
- c. Influence standard of provision by builders
- d. Influence training, information networks and advice for business
- e. Recruit members for the working groups
- f. Initial action plan
 - i. Arrange meetings with the proposed developers of Flaxby Park, Maltkiln Village and Green Hammerton
 - ii. Arrange visit to Citu site/developer, Leeds
 - iii. Meet HBC regarding Local Plan
 - iv. Visit Ilke Homes, Flaxby Park Industrial Estate

4. **Transport**

Review current planning applications to ensure Sustainable Transport has been included.

- a. Work with North Yorkshire County Council on the Harrogate and Knaresborough congestion review process. Press for a District wide Sustainable Transport strategy.
- b. Work with local businesses, schools, residents' groups and other interested parties to raise awareness of the impact of transport choices.
- c. Work with HBC to promote Sustainable Transport.
- d. Support the setting up of car share clubs across the District.
- e. Reduce emissions from traffic idling.
- f. Promote uptake of active transport (walking and cycling) by pushing for excellent infrastructure.

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- g. Work with transport agencies (e.g. bus companies, train, taxi companies and haulage associations).

5. **Food**

- a. Work with the local farming community to provide training in low carbon production strategies.
- b. Work with local processing companies to ensure energy efficiency, minimum packaging and food waste.
- c. Share good practice from Betty's and Taylors of Harrogate on establishing a carbon neutral supply chain.
- d. Work with local retailers (such as supermarkets and restaurants) to provide more low carbon meal choices.
- e. Provide information for the public on low carbon meal choices.
- f. Prevent food waste and raise awareness of food's carbon footprint through the Resurrected Bites Café.
- g. Encourage HBC to be an early adopter for food waste collection service (for biogas generation).

6. **Carbon Capture and Storage**

- a. Work with the Rotary Club of Harrogate, promoting their Carbon Offsetting Scheme, where we can.
- b. Work with the HBC Arboriculture Manager, in developing the Northern Forest/White Rose Forest tree planting strategy for Harrogate District.
- c. Embed biodiversity and habitat creation within the design of woodlands - urban and rural.
- d. Promote the concept of the Knaresborough Forest to generate local interest in woodland.

7. **Increase the capacity of Zero Carbon Harrogate**

- a. Develop working groups and sub-groups from these, to address individual objectives.
 - b. Provide leadership training to equip working group leaders.
 - c. Build membership through events and publicity.
 - d. Encourage new volunteers with clear objectives, support and training.
 - e. Provide training through Carbon Conversations Courses and other opportunities.
 - f. Partner with other appropriate organisations wherever possible.
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