



Frampton Cotterell Parish Council Climate and Nature Emergency Declaration

Preamble:

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council hereby declares a Climate and Nature Emergency in recognition of the profound and urgent need to address the critical challenges posed by climate change and the decline of biodiversity. Climate and nature are intrinsically linked. As temperatures rise, ecosystems are disrupted, and many species struggle to adapt or face habitat loss and extinction. In turn, the loss of biodiversity can worsen climate change as it plays a crucial role in reducing carbon and regulating the Earth's climate. The destruction of forests and degradation of ecosystems further release stored carbon into the atmosphere, intensifying the greenhouse effect. Looking at nature-based solutions to climate change can help us to halt this cycle. Efforts to combat climate change must go hand in hand with preserving and restoring nature to create a more sustainable and resilient future. This declaration reflects the unwavering commitment of the Parish Council to safeguarding the future of our local environment and the planet.

Our Commitment:

Integrated Decision-Making: This declaration will guide and inform every decision made by the Parish Council. It will be integrated into the procurement and tender processes, setting clear baselines for sustainability, carbon neutrality, and environmental impact. The Parish Council shall feed in to local authority consultations relating to the environment and lobby for change.

Waste Reduction: The Parish Council shall reduce its waste in line or exceeding local targets of achieving 65% of waste being recycled, repaired or reused. The council shall continue to work with Plastic Free Frampton to provide recycling stations for difficult to recycle items at the Brockeridge centre.

Carbon Neutrality: The Parish Council is committed to achieving carbon neutrality before 2030. This commitment extends to all aspects of parish council business, including reviewing and revising contracts to ensure they align with the goal of becoming carbon neutral. The Parish Council's carbon footprint shall be calculated annually with the goal to reduce the footprint to net zero by 2030. Local carbon offset initiatives shall be investigated to neutralise any remaining emissions. The following scope 1, 2 and 3 targets shall be reached by 2030:

- **Scope 1:** Phase out gas boilers and cookers in council buildings
- **Scope 2:** Assess and neutralise emissions from energy supplies to council buildings
- **Scope 3:** Align with local authority net zero goals for contractors. To prioritise environmentally friendly contractors.

Community Engagement: This declaration was created via consultation with Frampton Cotterell residents. The Parish Council will actively engage with and involve the community to ensure they are

fully prepared for government targets related to climate change, biodiversity, and sustainability. The Parish Council shall support residents in accessing information on green energy schemes, retrofitting, wildlife gardening, and sustainability. We will engage with stakeholders including businesses, schools, universities and local landowners. We will continue to build our volunteer base and prioritise training and support for our hard-working volunteers. We shall welcome feedback on our climate and nature declaration, projects and policies.

Resource Management: The Parish Council is dedicated to responsibly managing its resources for the benefit of wildlife and to mitigate climate change wherever possible. This includes preserving and enhancing natural habitats, conserving water, utilizing green energy, and reducing waste. The Parish Council will explore opportunities to promote a circular economy by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling resources to minimize our ecological footprint.

Enhance Nature: The Parish Council commits to enhancing and protecting the natural environment within our parish. This includes initiatives to promote biodiversity, tree and wildflower planting, and practicing sustainable land management. Developers will be encouraged to use wildlife-friendly features in new constructions. The importance of nature to public health shall be publicised in our areas of local natural beauty protected. We shall work with local community groups, including Frampton Cotterell Nature, to measure and monitor habitats across the village.

Stewardship and Accountability: The Parish Council recognizes its role as stewards of the environment and pledges to be accountable for its actions. Regular reviews and assessments of progress will be conducted to ensure alignment with climate and nature commitments. The Local Climate & Nature Action Plan and Environment Policy shall be reviewed yearly. We shall work with neighbouring towns and parishes to share resources and work on environmental projects.

Sustainable Transportation: To reduce the carbon footprint of the village, the Parish Council will encourage sustainable methods of transport, such as cycling and walking, and investigate sustainable travel schemes. We will investigate speed limits on residential roads with the local authority and recognise the impact of speed on wildlife, pets and people.

Environmental Preservation: When engaging in activities like hedge-cutting and tree works, the Parish Council will be careful not to disturb nesting animals and will follow the bird nest & bat roost policy. Mature trees that need to be removed will be replaced, and Tree Protection Orders will be investigated for at-risk trees. The pesticide policy will continue to be followed to reduce the impact of chemicals on nature.

Food Sustainability: The Parish Council will work to reduce food waste and promote local food growing and food sharing initiatives. Local businesses will be collaborated with to cater for parish council events wherever possible.

Light Pollution: The Parish Council will work to reduce light pollution in the community and on council land to protect local bat species and nocturnal wildlife.

Implementation of Plans: The Parish Council shall commit to developing plans to assess energy usage and measure carbon emissions and phase out the use of gas. Scope 1, 2 and 3 targets be assessed and plans created to reach goals. A risk assessment for projects and targets to be formulated. The Climate and Nature Action Plan shall be updated every 3 years at a minimum. The impact of gas (such as gas cookers) on public health shall be explored and assessed.

Conclusion:

This declaration serves as a reminder to protect our environment and the well-being of our community. It is a call to action, a commitment to change, and an opportunity to create a lasting guideline of sustainable practices. The Local Climate & Nature Action Plan will guide environmental action and be reviewed yearly with the input of the local community. The Environmental Policy shall ensure climate and nature are at the heart of all parish council decisions, creating a clear framework to follow. All members of the parish, as well as partners and stakeholders, are invited to join the Parish Council in this endeavor. Together, a more sustainable, resilient, and harmonious future for all can be created. Do your part, save our planet.

Signed on behalf of Frampton Cotterell Parish Council:

Signature: ***Linda Squire***

Name: Linda Squire

Title: Clerk To Council