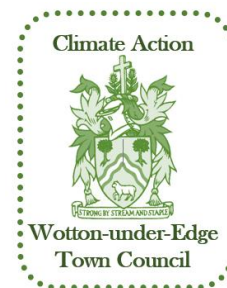


Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)

Statement approved by Wotton-under Edge Town Council (WTC) at its January 2020 Council meeting



WTC established a working group in June 2019 to ascertain what this Council can feasibly and practically do regarding climate change. Cllrs R Claydon, T Luker, J Turner, D Thomas, John Cordwell, A Wilkinson, & P Barton agreed to be on this working group, which has been looking at all aspects of the Town Council in order to make recommendations back to Council, since there will undoubtedly be cost implications moving forward. The following is a statement of achievements so far and aspirations.

Achieved so far

1. New double glazed windows installed throughout 90% of Civic Centre
2. Appointment of a green energy company (Ecotricity) for supply of green electricity and green gas (but still chasing installation of their smart meters to allow further analysis).
3. Encouraged businesses and organisations to join the Refill scheme for water bottle refills.
4. Production of a detailed action plan for consideration at future council.
5. Detailed report from the council office on how the Town Council disposes of waste in an environmental way
6. Chair of CCWG attended 3 Climate Change meetings in Stroud & Bristol in own time & at own expense representing CCWG, enquiring about grant funding for climate change projects.
7. Obtained a funding pledge of £2500 from the Nature First Group towards the cost of a possible solar canopy above new Symn Lane car park electric charging points.
8. Wotton Climate Change Group to plant trees from the Woodland Trust in Hollywell Leaze, Knapp Field, Streamsfield and the Cemetery – all WTC owned facilities.
9. The WTC administration function already recycles cardboard, glass, plastic etc, and as of January 2020, all refuse liners are made from recycled plastic. All toilets already use recycled paper hand towels or an air dryer. We are currently looking at prices for recycled A4 copier paper and recycled paper toilet rolls too, when current stocks need replacing. We have used Fair-trade products in the kitchens for many years, and encourage users of the facilities to consider this when hiring the venues (putting this into user hire form from Feb20).

Future projects

1. Three quotations in progress reference improving building insulation for the Civic Centre, Town Hall, Heritage Centre, Chipping Club Room, & Youth Centre.
2. Various quotations obtained for installing an 8 bay electric vehicle charge point in the Symn Lane Car Park and enquiries with Energy Saving Trust and Sec of State for Transport.
3. Various quotations being obtained for installing a possible solar photovoltaic canopy over the electric vehicle charge points to generate green energy. OLEV also contacted in relation to this.
4. Enquiries have been made for grant funding for our projects with the Rural Community Energy Fund, SW Energy Hub, Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, Secretary of State for Transport via Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP, Leadership Gloucestershire. Also funding advice from the Centre for Sustainable Energy.
5. Solar panels to generate green electricity could be installed on public buildings but will need grant funding.
6. Planting of a wild flower turf bank next to Council owned Wotton Pool discussed & approved in January. This could lead to other areas for consideration such as Marchesi Walk after analysis.
7. Need to encourage the town's population to individually contribute to climate change projects in their own home and generate their own green energy.
8. WTC approved electric door work quote in civic centre reception in January to assist reduction of heating bills and further improve double glazing & building efficiency (current doors very old and draughty and not fully DDA compliant). Work to start March/April.
9. Analyse lighting throughout council buildings to move over to LED in all areas. This has already begun in part where current bulb stock used up and/or lights have failed.