

# Climate and Environmental Action Plan

## Rudby Parish Council

*Adopted by a resolution of Rudby Parish Council on 13 December 2021*

### Introduction

The UK Government in October announced its *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*<sup>1</sup>. In November the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission launched its *Climate Action Plan*<sup>2</sup> where the first element of its framework (p21) is “Acknowledge climate and ecological emergency”. North Yorks County Council in their *Beyond Carbon*<sup>3</sup> proposal sets out their plan to be carbon neutral by 2030 and Hambleton in their *Climate Change Strategy And Action Plan 2021-2034*<sup>4</sup> sets out how they plan to be net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2034. The recent National Association of Local Councils (NALC) report<sup>5</sup> found “that 38% of participating councils had already declared a climate emergency and a further 8% were pending declaration”.

In this context, it is entirely appropriate that Rudby Parish Council (RPC) develops its own Climate and Environmental Action Plan (CEAP). Any CEAP developed needs to be focussed on local actions but set within the regional, national, and global context.

RPC recognises that the climate crisis is a major issue and RPC needs to take action to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> in line with Government/Regional/District policy.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/climate-action-plan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/beyond-carbon>

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.climateemergency.uk/media/data/plans/hambleton-district-council-5ae9a27.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/climate-change/3598-what-can-local-councils-do-on-climate-change-2021/file>

## **Climate and Environmental Action Plan**

### **Rudby Parish Council**

#### **Aim**

The aim of the Climate and Environmental Action Plan is to

***Help the Parish Council, individuals, businesses, and organisations within the Parish to alleviate Climate Change***

#### **Objectives**

- 1 Ensure RPC regularly reviews its actions on Climate Change
- 2 Work with other organisations and/or individuals to tackle Climate Change
- 3 Improve the environment and biodiversity within the Parish to help alleviate Climate Change
- 4 Reduce the Parish Council's carbon emissions wherever possible
- 5 Encourage individuals, businesses, and local organisations to take similar actions
- 6 Sign post resources to help parishioners tackle Climate Change

<b>Area of Activity</b>	<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Action</b>
Review actions		The Parish Council to formally recognise that the climate crisis is a major concern and action is required to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> in line with Government policy
		Review the Climate and Environmental Action Plan on a six-monthly basis
		Councillors ensure they are up to date with developments and needs in the area; e.g. take advantage of courses offered to council groups, undertake carbon literacy training,
Work with other organisations	Co-operate with Climate Action Stokesley and Villages	Maintain working relationship; e.g.COP26 stall on the Village Green, working with CASaV and the Primary School on the introduction of PVCs
	Co-operate with the Primary School	Maintain work with the school on tree planting and speed checks
	Co-operate with Scouts/Cubs	Maintain work with Scouts/Cubs on litter picking
	Co-operate with Care for Our Village group	Continue to fund their activities
	Co-operate with Trees for Tomorrow	Continue to fund their activities
	Work with NYCC Path Keeper scheme	At least once a year walk the Parish's Public Rights of Way and report, and where possible resolve, problems with them
	The Hub	The Hub is active in helping the environment (e.g. using local products, recycling items not accepted by Hambleton). Publicise these opportunities and consider if there are other areas of common interest
	Other organisations	Seek to establish links with other organisations who work in this area
Improve the environment and biodiversity	Increase tree cover	Trees for Tomorrow have so far planted over 500 trees/whips in the Parish; the work is on-going; RPC helps fund the activity Ensure native species and of native origin
	Displays of plants/flowers etc	Care for Our Village group lead on this; RPC funds the activity

	Litter picking	RPC to operate a litter pick at least once a year with the Scouts/Cubs
	Increase wild flower areas	Increase the wild flower areas in the Parish
	Old Linen Mill	Improve the area around the Mill as a public space
	Burial ground extension	Make the burial ground extension accessible to the public
	Maintain Village Green and other open spaces	RPC funds the grass cutting and annual review of trees on public open spaces
		RPC to support actions such as No Mow May to help improve biodiversity
	Neighbourhood Plan	Ensure the Neighbourhood Plan addresses climate change
	Planning applications	Ensure all comments on planning applications consider the environment
	Riven Leven	Work with Tees River Trust, Leven Catchment Partnership, etc to improve the river and surrounds
	Pesticides/herbicides	RPC to undertake an audit on the use of pesticides/herbicides on RPC land Based on the audit, set targets to reduce/eliminate the use of pesticides/herbicides
	Invasive species	Work with Environment Agency, Tees River Trust, Leven Catchment Partnership, etc to help control invasive species (e.g. Himalayan Balsam)
	Recycling	Identify, and publicise, organisations within the Village that offer recycling opportunities (e.g. The Hub)
Reduce the Parish Council's carbon emissions	RPC does not own any buildings or vehicles so limited direct action is possible; reduction has largely to be once removed	Review procurement criteria to ensure environmental impact is considered. Criteria to be considered include use of local companies to reduce carbon emissions on travel, use of electric vehicles to travel to/undertake any work and similar. Amend Standing Orders if necessary.

		Review annually the frequency of grass cutting etc and consider the benefit of reduced carbon emission and increase in biodiversity alongside cost and visual impact
		Where cost effective, use local companies/organisations to reduce transport use
		Ensure the Neighbourhood Plan addresses this area in its specification of new dwellings
		Ensure the Neighbourhood Plan considers the requirements for electric vehicles/phasing out of gas central heating/etc
		Ensure all submissions to HDC on relevant planning applications consider the impact on the climate and environment; e.g. inclusion of photovoltaics, heat pumps, trees, green space.
Encourage others to take action	Public Transport	Work with NYCC whenever possible to improve public transport in the village
	Footpaths	Work with NYCC and others to improve footpaths; recent work includes improving footpaths along the river and between the Wynd and Sexhow Lane, clearing footpaths in Middleton and Hutton Rudby
	Cycling	Ensure significant housing developments consider cyclists
	Electric vehicle (EV) charging points	Encourage NY Highways to introduce appropriate EV charging points in the Parish Ask the Spar and the Village Hall if they are considering installing public EV charging points
Sign post resources	Expand the Parish Council's web site on Climate Change	Incorporate links to organisations such as Buglife, Woodland Trust, Friends of the Earth, Government's green schemes, Local Enterprise Partnership, Centre for Sustainable Energy, etc
	Social media	Develop a social media presence to disseminate material