

Mendip District Council - Climate Emergency Plan

The following information details what Mendip District Council's plans in response to the climate emergency. Each theme contains some key facts and "the plan" of action the Council are taking to reduce carbon emissions.

Please read through the plan before completing the survey.

Waste & Water

The facts

- The average UK household uses 349 litres of water a day
- Each year, about 7 million tonnes of food and drink is wasted by UK homes
- Approximately 2% of total carbon emissions are from domestic waste in Mendip

The plan

- Promote water conservation techniques
- Reduce waste going to landfill
- Reduce single-use plastic consumption
- Encourage all festivals, events and Council markets to strive to be zero waste

Behaviour Change

The facts

- The average carbon footprint per person in Mendip is approximately 8 tonnes (excluding emissions from goods and services we buy)
- A return flight from Bristol to Spain emits approximately ½ tonne of carbon into the atmosphere
- Emissions from domestic landfill waste are more than 14,500 per year in Mendip

The plan

- Deliver a programme of community and stakeholder engagement across the Council and Mendip district
- Work with local groups, Parish, City, Town Councils and other partners to address climate change
- Develop a carbon literacy programme for the Council and community to increase climate change and environmental issues awareness

Transport

The facts

- Currently, only 1% of people commute to work by bicycle in the UK
- Emissions from transport make up 34% of Mendip's total carbon footprint
- In 2018, 65,600 cars were registered in Mendip, only 0.3% of those were Ultra Low Emission Vehicles

The plan

- Support improvement of public transport network across the Mendip district
- Increase the number of footpaths and cycle paths within Mendip
- Support and enable the transition to zero emission transport in the district

Energy

The facts

- Institutional buildings account for 29% of carbon emissions from energy consumption in Mendip
- Energy used to heat and power Mendip households account for 25% of the district's total carbon emissions
- 71% of Mendip households are heated by mains gas

The plan

- Reduce carbon footprint of all Mendip District Council buildings and facilities
- Support and encourage Mendip residents to reduce their household carbon footprints associated with heat and power
- Increase and promote renewable energy throughout the district

Built Environment

The facts

- Estimated growth in Mendip households between 2015-2035 is 17.3%
- Based on the projected increase in housing numbers, carbon emissions are estimated to rise by approximately 30,000 tonnes by 2030
- 71% of Mendip households are heated using gas boilers and 0.4% have no heating system at all

The plan

- Work with local people and partners for the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment
- Identify measures to increase energy efficiency of domestic homes and reduce fuel poverty in Mendip
- Promote quality building design with low/zero carbon innovations built-in

Food & Nature

The facts

- 10% of UK emissions (46.5 million tonnes) are from the agriculture sector
- The target tree cover for UK Local Authorities is 20%
- Agriculture and livestock account for 2% of Mendip's carbon emissions
- In the UK, since the 1970s, wildlife has declined by 40% and a quarter of our mammals face extinction

The plan

- Increase the potential for carbon absorption in our local landscape
- Increase biodiversity in our district
- Encourage the allocation of allotment sites with new developments
- Develop and deliver a Mendip district food strategy