

Item 11

Why the climate emergency important for people in Todmorden?

The climate crisis has been created by humanity's exponential use of fossil fuels in the last 150 years. Over this time, most of the carbon emitted has been from western, industrial nations. Burning fossil fuels increases the amount of carbon in the atmosphere, which creates a 'blanket' of carbon dioxide (CO₂) around the earth – trapping more of the sun's energy.

For all of human civilisation, the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has remained at XYZ. It now stands at and is heading to XYZ. We have never in X billion years had this much carbon in the atmosphere. Instead, as the amount of CO₂ increase, heat is trapped and global temperatures rise. Small changes in global temperatures can have catastrophic results – in our weather systems, sea levels and biodiversity.

What this means practically is unstable and extreme weather events – floods, extreme heat rises, unpredictable rains, melting glaciers, changing water courses, wildfires, desertification, rising sea levels, mass die offs in ocean and land life. All happening at such a pace that nature and people will struggle to adapt. In turn, scientists predict this will have the following impacts: greater areas of the globe unliveable; crop failure; more conflict over water scarcity and food growing areas; increased world hunger; spreading of disease.

The climate crisis will affect the poorest people most. People in Todmorden will be affected by the increased likelihood of:

- Extreme weather events
- Storms and flooding
- Heatwaves
- Food shortages and rises in food prices
- Unstable energy prices
- Pressure from migration
- Alienation from young people

It is therefore imperative that government at all levels give leadership in working to combat the climate crisis.

Todmorden Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Action Plan

Underpinned by Earth Care People Care ... Fairshare

The three main ways we can make a difference as a Town Council is to:

- Raising awareness and campaigning.
- Facilitate local partnerships, collaborations and initiatives.
- Create and implement climate friendly local policies.

Areas we want to make a difference		How we can influence through ...		
		Raising Awareness and campaigning.	Facilitate local partnerships, collaborations and initiatives.	Create and implement climate friendly local policies.
Reduce carbon use in Todmorden and work towards net zero in Calderdale by promoting and supporting ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewables • Micro generation • Home insulation • Installation of heat pumps • Investigate solar and wind • A shift to public transport • Retrofit • Local purchasing 	<p>Key projects for 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate the Council and Officers around climate change by providing training. 2. Develop relationships with key local groups working around climate change. 3. Improve engagement with local people around the climate crisis by updating the website and creating a quarterly climate newsletter for Todmorden. 4. Award climate change small grants. 5. Run a Mayors Event Eco-Fayre and bring environmental groups locally together to create a coalition for climate change action. 6. Champion retrofit and explore the potential for renewables locally. 7. Improve Todmorden Town Council's Environmental Impact and implement climate friendly policies when reviewing planning applications. 		
Ensure Todmorden is 'nature positive' by encouraging and fostering ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-diversity • People's use of and care of the countryside • Rewilding • Clean waterways • Healthy soil • Volunteering in local environmental groups 			
Facilitate carbon capture locally by enabling ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting • Thriving moorland • Managing land for nature 			
Foster local climate resilience by working to improve ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food security • hyper local food growing • flood mitigation work • natural flood defences • public realm • street tree cover 			

Action Plan for Q3 2023 and 2024:

1. Educate the Council and Officers around climate change

- Deliver Climate Fresk Training in January – invite local parish and town councillors

2. Develop relationships with key local groups working around climate change

- Ensure we have a database of environmental groups working in Todmorden (including Calderdale groups who cover Todmorden)
- Councillors to visit and make links with Todmorden College, TreesForUs, Moors for the Future; Ban the Burn; Slow the Flow and see how we can promote and support their work.

3. Improve engagement with local people around the climate crisis

- Email all groups about the small grants
- Improve our Climate Emergency page on the website
- Create a Todmorden Climate Crisis quarterly newsletter
- Create Youth Climate Board with local school and Climate Board with local groups
- Hold regular outreach stalls when we have an initiative to promote locally

4. Award climate change small grants

- Publicise the small grants
- Change the grant amount ceiling to: £1250
- Award the full £2500 grant pot by January 2024 and £5000 by the end of 2024
- Consider the Castle Lane land as a recipient for the grant to create biodiverse natural play area

5. Bring environmental groups locally together to create a coalition for climate change action

- Host a Mayors event: Environment Fair (day time)
(maybe on second day look to hold in the market stalls?)
- Climate Symposium in the evening – Todmorden Transition Town? / Create a Climate Board

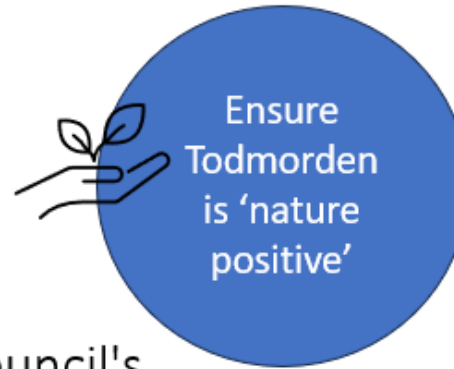
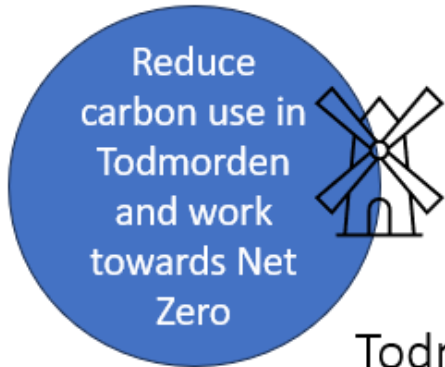
6. Champion retrofit and explore potential for renewables

- Identify a way to promote heat pumps and insulation to those on benefits or private landlords
- Convene a positive and well-informed debate around the windfarm

7. Improve Todmorden Town Council's Environmental Impact and implement climate friendly policies

- Consider changing bank account to one not investing in fossil fuels
- When assessing planning applications: support green transport schemes; sustainable urban drainage; improve EV charging points and bike racks; cycle racks and EV charging points; prioritise tree cover and moorland protection; support low impact development; support retrofit proposals.

- Renewables
- Micro generation
- Home insulation
- Installation of heat pumps
- Investigate solar & wind
- High quality public transport
- Retrofit
- Local purchasing

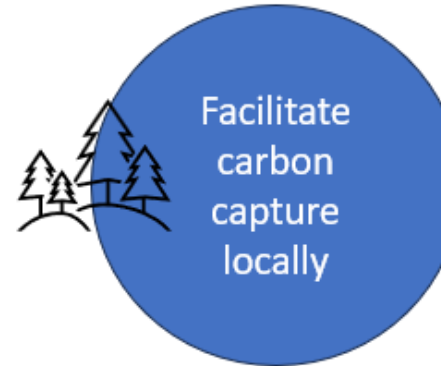


- Bio-diversity
- Care of the countryside
- Rewilding
- Clean waterways
- Healthy soil
- Volunteering

Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan

Promoting, supporting, encouraging, enabling and working to improve.

- food security
- hyper local food growing
- flood mitigation work
- natural flood defences
- public realm
- street tree cover



- Tree planting
- Thriving moorland
- Managing land for nature

