

Almeley Parish Council

Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration – March 2022

1. Almeley Parish Council declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate change represents a threat to the life opportunities and wellbeing of future generations and needs to be addressed at all levels of government.
2. In considering all planning applications for development within Almeley Parish, the Parish Council will have regard to its NDP Policy ALM1 and its associated policy statement on its strategy for sustainable development.
3. It further declares that its future actions and decisions will, where appropriate, take account of the aim to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to reach net-zero carbon by 2030, in support of Herefordshire Council's declared objective.
4. The Council also recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, wellbeing, and community resilience.
5. The Parish Council recognises its responsibility to show engagement and leadership on this issue.
6. Almeley Parish Council and Greener Almeley will consider possible activities including, but not limited to, the following:
 - work with Herefordshire Council and other local and national agencies to ensure, where appropriate, resources are directed towards projects in the parish aimed at achieving net-zero carbon by 2030
 - engage with Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board and Herefordshire Green Network's Great Collaboration to consider the actions needed to meet the climate emergency.
 - communicate regularly with our community through an inclusive process that works well in hearing all views and ideas for action from all sectors of the community. Through this process, help people understand the seriousness of the challenge facing humanity and the actions individuals, businesses, community groups, the school, local churches, farmers, and landowners can take to help address climate change and biodiversity loss.
 - develop short, medium, and long term plans aimed at working towards achieving zero carbon by 2030 as well as major enhancement to the biodiversity of the parish and measures to mitigate the impact of severe weather events.
 - undertake regular reviews of progress through annual monitoring of community energy use, biodiversity, and resilience.
 - support actions to reduce our community's carbon emissions by encouraging improvements to buildings' energy efficiency, seeking to improve public transport, reducing the use of private cars, encouraging walking and cycling, and preference for greater consumption of locally produced food.
 - work with local businesses and services to enable them to play an effective part in the battle against climate change and biodiversity loss.
 - encourage natural approaches to carbon capture and increase biodiversity by, for example, tree and hedge planting.
 - support farmers and landowners seeking to achieve the transition to net-zero carbon.
 - encourage the use of sustainable energy whilst seeking to ensure there is no detrimental impact on the character of the area or the people who live in the Parish.