St Austell Town Council

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk **Finance and General Purposes Committee**	Sept 2026	A high proportion of the energy purchased is renewable.	Closely monitoring
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager **Council**	Ongoing	737 trees planted since 2017. All larger trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. Around 25 trees are being brought on at the Town Council's nursery.	Ongoing

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Installation of a polytunnel to allow the re-cycling of plants and growing on of trees/shrubs and creation of a tree nursery.	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	Polytunnel well used since 2022 for the growing on of plants and trees. 150 plants have this year been grown plugs in the polytunnel and the nursery is currently housing around 25 young trees to be brought on for planting when they are mature enough.	Fully operational.
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager **Council**	February 2021/ ongoing	Town Council has authorised the employment of another apprentice.	Recruitment late summer 2026.
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager **Community Committee**	March 2021/ ongoing	Signed off by Council 22.03.21. Review due in Autumn 2026	
Develop Environmental Policy based on good practice identified by Cornwall Council.	Deputy Town Clerk **Community Committee**	April 2021/ ongoing	Reviewed and approved July 2024. Biodiversity Policy reviewed in January 2026.	
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk **Community Committee**	August 2026	Library entered in 2026. Result awaited.	

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Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager **Finance & General Purposes Committee**	Ongoing	Town Council street lights being replaced with LED's on a phased basis. Comprehensive replacement cost prohibitive. Survey will determine which lights are end of life and should be converted to LED	Awaiting Enerveo to complete the remaining 20% of the survey
Community Engagement	Operations Manager **Climate & Environment Committee**	Ongoing	TC worked closely with CASA. Councillors support CASA events where they can. Rotary Club carrying out planting and litter picks across various sites.	Ongoing
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk **Climate & Environment Committee**	December 2021/ongoing	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project.	To be progressed

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Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk **Finance and General Purposes Committee**	May 2025	Priory Car Park Toilets identified and approved by full Council. Mount Charles Social Club	To be progressed. To be explored
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Deputy Town Clerk **Community Committee**	Ongoing	A further climate awareness event and plant swap took place at the library on 5th June 2026.	Event took place at the Library 05.06.26
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at various locations across the town.	Areas reseeded in spring 2026
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers **Council**	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers and contractors are used.	
Improvement of Multi Use Trails	All officers **Council**	Ongoing	Signage improved by Sustrans and Rotary Club in partnership with Town Council. Trail at Tremena Gardens improved.	Signage due to be cleaned and painted again by the Rotary Club - Completed

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Provision of battery-operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	2 battery operated blowers acquired.	Foreman attended a recent battery operated machine demonstration day and reported that the technology has improved. OM organising a trial of battery operated strimmers with the dealership

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Engagement with young people to encourage environmental issues	Deputy Town Clerk **Community Committee**	Ongoing	Litter picks in Poltair Park and new litter bin purchased for the park on the recommendation of Young People Cornwall. YPC facilitating Summer Games in the Parks. Youth Council created.	Last event 28.08.26 Funding approved for the Youth Council to install bug hotels – OM to organise the purchase
Landrew Road community garden	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	Growing group of volunteers at the garden. Compost toilet created, covered area erected utilising re-claimed wood and regular composting at the site	Ongoing

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Planning & Regeneration Committee to look favourably on planning applications where it can be demonstrated that consideration has been given to the impact the proposal has on the environment and mitigating actions put in place.	Town Clerk **Planning & Regeneration Committee**	Ongoing	National policy changes introduced regarding biodiversity. Committee has raised environmental concerns and issues for a number of planning applications and will continue to do so.	
Purchase re-cycled material where possible	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	All new benches, tables and safety surfacing in parks are now made from recycled materials.	
Repairing play equipment rather than buying new.	Operations Manager **Community Committee**	Ongoing	Winter maintenance includes comprehensive repairs and servicing which should extend the life of play equipment. Local engineering company used to manufacture and repair some parts.	

Action	**Responsible Officer/Committee**	**Deadline**	**Progress**	**Complete**
Review of the grounds maintenance service. • Grass cutting • Footpath maintenance • Wildflower areas • Weed control	Town Clerk/Operations Manager **Council**	July 2026	A report is being produced for Councillors to consider at the full Council meeting on 13th July 2026.	Further report being prepared for Oct Council meeting.