

St Austell Town Council



Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2026

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager Finance and General Purposes Committee	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract. Working well.	Yes.
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 2025	Renewable energy purchased for Priory toilets and town centre electric point.	Closely monitoring

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager Council	Ongoing	680 trees planted since 2017. All trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. Around 60 trees are being brought on at the Town Council's nursery.	Ongoing
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. 500 plants have this year been grown from seed or plugs in the polytunnel and the nursery is currently housing around 60 young trees to be brought on for planting when they are mature enough.	Fully operational.
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete
Replacement of internal lights in the Committee Room/Hallway at the Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager Community Committee	Dec 2025		Complete
Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	February 2021	Existing grant criteria reviewed to encourage climate emergency projects.	Complete.
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager Council	February 2021/ ongoing	New apprentice started April 2024 and qualified in July 2025. Further Apprentice to be recruited	Complete Ongoing
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Spring 2021/ ongoing	Method is not suitable for all areas across the town and is powered by diesel. Machinery and service proved unreliable.	Trial complete.
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager Community Committee	March 2021/ ongoing	The Meadows and Cemetery Park schemes were completed and the Town Council have taken on maintenance responsibility for both sites.	Complete and waiting for future opportunities

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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.	Complete
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 also created in 2026	Complete
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	May 2022/ongoing	Poltair Park entered into the 2023 Pride in Park competition part of which is judged on sustainability. 3 Stars achieved. Truro Road Park entered in 2024.	Truro Road Park achieved a Silver Gilt award
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2022	Community Groups provided opportunity to enter IYN competition 2023. Library entered 2024 and 2025.	Community Groups encouraged to enter.
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	May 2022/ongoing	Poltair Park café actively re-cycling and in contract with BIFFA.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2022	BID have stopped entering due to resource issues.	
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk Council	December 2021	Cornwall Council and housing associations have taken advantage of funding opportunities.	Library event held in 2025 with CEP
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager Council	31 st October 2022	Major improvement scheme completed and further planting to be undertaken Spring 2024.	Wildflower area created in Spring 2024 and expanded in summer 2025
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk Planning & Regeneration Committee	Ongoing	Town Council has lobbied for improvements to the scheduling of buses. Timetables & routes reviewed regularly.	Timetables and routes reviewed regularly.
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	Due to the costs involved, ecolabel paper rather than recycled paper is procured for most uses at the present time.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	-	Woods sold to a private individual.	Complete
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.	Lighting survey by Enerveo due to be carried out in Feb 2026 to determine which lights are end of life and should be converted to LED
Community Engagement	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Ongoing	TC worked closely with CASA. Garden festival and green festival supported. Rotary Club carrying out planting and litter picks across various sites TC supported the CASA climate event at St Johns Church in September 2025	Library Event Planned for May 2026.

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Liaise with St Austell BID with regard to the efficiency of the Town Centre Christmas lights.	Deputy Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	December 2022/ongoing	All Christmas lights are LED and were replaced in 2023.	Complete
Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Spring 2022/ongoing	Orchard Car Park identified as a potential site to create formal composting bays. Town Council's future at the Stable Block uncertain due to re-development of the Penwinnick Road site.	Discussions commenced with Treveth
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk Climate & Environment Committee	December 2021/ongoing	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project. Still to be progressed.	
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	February 2022/ongoing	EV charging points installed and operational.	Complete
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2022	Funding bid submitted to Cornwall Council for the creation of a pump track at The Meadows.	Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	May 2025	Priory Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Will review resource implications at next budget round.	Principle approved by Council.
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 in the library is being planned for Spring 2025.	Event took place at the Library On 30.05.25
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at: Penwinnick Road, Daniels Lane, The Meadows and Trenowah Road. The Meadows wildflower areas refreshed October 2023.	Areas will be reseeded in spring 2026
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	LCWIP completed. Rooftop Garden feasibility tested. Report received. Church piazza project incorporates sustainable planting. Due to be completed November 2025.	Awaiting update from CC on LCWIP projects. Report complete. Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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. LCWIP completed.	Signage cleaned and painted again by the Rotary Club in September 2025
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library. Shrubs and plants recycled where possible. Wood from Poltair pavilion and Lostwood Garden recycled.	
Monitor changes in planning protocols which affect biodiversity in government planning policy and the Cornwall Local Plan and make representations where appropriate.	Town Clerk Planning and Regeneration Committee	Ongoing		

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Provision of battery-operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Battery operated blower acquired which due to battery capacity issues is only used for smaller parks/gardens.	
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Grass cutting policy reviewed May 2024. Tree watering systems acquired to save water and watering.	9 large trees on order for planting in the parks during winter 2025
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. Creation of a Youth Council being considered.	
Environmental activities with regard to Town Council maintained public rights of way	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Maintenance work being absorbed by the Council workforce to reduce travel and carbon emissions.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Creation of Truro Road Park – Friends Group	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Truro Road Friends Group resurrected and involved in improvement projects for the park. Recycling shrubs from Lostwood Garden to Truro Road.	Friends Group achieved a Silver Gilt award in the Pride in Parks competition in 2023
The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Exploring the potential to enter The Meadows into the Pride in Park competition 2026.	
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	
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	Committee has raised environmental concerns and issues for a number of planning applications and will continue to do so.	Government reviewing Biodiversity Policies

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Explore efficient ways to provide assistance in terms of warmth, shelter and food for the disadvantaged.	Sara Gwilliams Deputy Town Clerk	Winter 2022/23	St Austell Library engaged with NHS and Volunteer Cornwall to support the Safe Space and Warm Space initiatives. Small Grants Scheme terms and conditions reviewed to permit revenue expenditure such as energy costs to be funded for voluntary groups.	Complete Complete
Repairing play equipment rather than buying new.	Steve Skinner 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.	
Creation of bat shelter in Poltair Park.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	February 2024	Complete.	Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Identify a suitable space in Priory Car Park for electric bikes to be located.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	Spring 2023	Beryl Bikes rolled out in St Austell by Cornwall Council in April 2023. Space in Priory Car Park identified, and line removal/re-lining carried out to allow the bikes to be picked up/dropped off in that location.	Beryl Bikes withdrawn in Sept 2024 due to lack of use.
Purchase re-cycled materials where possible	Steve Skinner Operations Manager	Ongoing	All new benches, tables and safety surfacing in parks are now made from recycled materials.	Ongoing