



BRENCHLEY AND MATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Policy: Environment, Sustainability and Climate Emergency **Date of adoption:** 6 December 2021

Introduction

Kent County Council has committed to reach net-zero carbon emissions for its own services and buildings by 2030 and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the whole county to net zero by 2050. TWBC declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and has committed to making the Borough carbon neutral by 2030.

Scope

Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council recognises that the global climate and environment emergencies represent a threat to the life-opportunities and well-being of future generations and needs to be addressed at all levels of government. It acknowledges that its future actions and decisions should take account of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the above targets. The Council also recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change can result in many benefits in terms of health, well-being, and community resilience.

Declarations of Intent

The Council will undertake a carbon audit and create an action plan of its own activities and services in the next fiscal year, with the intention of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It will undertake an annual audit of progress towards achieving that target.

As consultee on planning applications, the Council will make climate change mitigation and nature recovery important considerations in all its responses.

The Council will support and encourage all practicable measures to increase carbon “off-setting” actions in the Parish, including tree-planting, composting, and other carbon-sequestration.

The Council will seek ways to facilitate and encourage the community to reduce direct and indirect CO₂ emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate.

The Council will form a climate change working group with members of the community to identify opportunities to contribute to the emission reduction targets and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment.

The climate change working group will:

- Inform and advise residents on ways to reduce their carbon emissions.
- Explore achievable changes and activities that can be adopted by the residents of the parish to produce benefits to the environment.
- Work with TWBC, KCC and other local and national agencies to ensure resources are directed towards projects in the Parish which are designed to assist the achieving of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.