



# Climate Change & Biodiversity Actions taken to date...

## Carbon reduction

- Carbon footprint benchmarks carried out on the Town Council estate by Pat Osborne.
- Switched to green electricity (100% renewable energy) in October 2020.
- Eco hot water boilers installed in council venues.
- Goods and services are purchased locally, where possible, to reduce mileage and packaging.
- Ensuring money is invested wisely, in low-risk sustainable banks or investment funds.
- Battery powered machinery purchased for the grounds staff to use.
- Introduction of two Electric Vehicle Charge Points in Park Road recreation ground car park.

## Plastic reduction

- Working towards becoming a 'plastic free community' with Blandford War on Waste.
- Reusable items for events, instead of single use (and old stock is being phased out).
- Refillable soap dispensers in venues.
- Promoting the use of re-usable bags, purchased locally to give out for free to market customers.
- Switched from handwaving flags with plastic sticks to an eco-version with paper sticks for events.
- Signed up to the free water refill scheme, to reduce use of bottles.
- Partnership working with Wessex Water for the introduction of a bottle refill point in the Market Place.





## Waste reduction

- Wastepaper is reused or recycled, along with recyclable plastic items, cardboard and tins.
- All woodchip produced is either reused or sent for recycling if possible.
- Offering of reusable items to the community. This was increased during the decant of the Corn Exchange, Town Hall and offices.
- Two-minute litter pick board available to the public on market days.
- Supporting Litter Free Dorset campaigns, such as Bin Your Butt and distributing free stubby packs.
- Running of Blandford Community Fridge to reduce food waste.

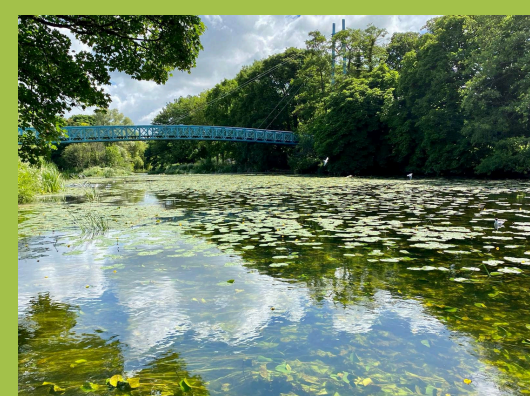


## Biodiversity and trees

- First inland council to adopt a Motion for the Ocean.
- Provision of insect hotels, bird feeders, swift/swallow nests and bird nests in Woodhouse Gardens with environmentally friendly slug repellent in use.
- Wildflower areas introduced at Jubilee Way and Badger Cross in planters.
- Trees that are felled due to being dead, diseased or dying, are replaced.
- Signed up to the ten principles of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People and tree planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.
- £100 of wildflower seeds purchased for residents to encourage growing of wildflower areas.
- Sunflower seeds distributed to residents to mark the council's 50th year!
- Promoting the importance of trees through the annual tree photography competition.
- Public art installation designed to provide shelter from sun and rain. Parasols introduced at Woodhouse Gardens due to lack of shade.
- Only Rain Down the Drain campaign with local art around drains to raise awareness.



**Please get in touch if you would like to join the working group.**



For more information, please visit <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/town-council/procedures> to view the Town Council's Climate Change & Biodiversity Plan.