



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.