HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

I. Introduction

In order to achieve the UK's legislated Net Zero by 2050 target, it is estimated that British households will need to reduce their emissions from an average of 10 – 11 tCO_2e[1] per year to about 2-3 tCO_2e. Some of this will be achieved by decarbonisation of the national grid, but it will also require replacement of fossil fuel heating systems, reduction of energy usage/waste (i.e. heat loss, inefficient appliances, etc.) changes to transportation and changes to consumption habits.

Our Parish emissions

The Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bristol, provides an Impact Tool[2] which gives estimates of annual emissions on a Parish level, as well as suggestions Parishes can use to try to reduce their impact. The latest report is attached. As of December 2024, the tool estimated our average per household emissions as 15 tCO_2e. This is down considerably from our July 2023 estimate of 23 tCO_2e. See Figure 1, 3rd column in each table, below.

July 2023 Emissions

	Total emissions ($t CO_2e$)	Per-household emissions ($t CO_2e$)	%
Total emissions	**14,089**	**23**	**100**
Consumption of goods and services	4,737	7.6	34
Travel	3,639	5.8	26
Food and diet	2,829	4.5	20
Housing	2,759	4.4	20
Waste	125	0.2	1

December 2024 Emissions

	Total emissions ($t CO_2e$)	Per-household emissions ($t CO_2e$)	%
Total emissions	**10,034**	**15**	**100**
Consumption of goods and services	2,809	4.1	28
Housing	2,700	4	27
Travel	2,573	3.8	26
Food and diet	1,720	2.5	17
Waste	233	0.3	2

Figure 1-July 2023 vs December 2024 emissions, Haslingfield Parish, CSE Impact Tool Reports

This is very good news. However, a per household emission of 15 tCO_2e is still higher than the GB average, and over five times the level needed to reach the reductions target.

The benefits of reduction

Reducing emissions is not just about reaching Net Zero targets to stop climate change. Renewable energy is rapidly becoming cheaper than fossil fuels, will enable the UK to achieve energy independence in a rapidly changing world, and has the potential to create and sustain many new jobs and industries. To quote the House of Lords' review of the economic impact of the government's climate policy:

> "… the economic opportunities presented by investing in renewable forms of energy outweigh the costs to the UK economy of the clean energy transition. It estimated the UK could see 2% additional growth in GDP through "the benefits from new jobs, increased economic activity, reduced fossil fuel imports and cost savings … other policies to reduce the UK's emissions would also result in benefits for households. For example… improving

[1] Tonnes CO_2 or equivalent
[2] https://impact-tool.org.uk/

> the energy efficiency of homes through the installation of heat pumps to replace oil and gas boilers had the potential to reduce household energy bills."[3]

Nor is reduction solely about a transition to renewables. Renewables themselves have an emissions cost. Science and technology historian Jean-Baptise Fressoz argues in his book, *More and More: An All-Consuming History of Energy*[4], that no so-called energy transition has ever actually involved a transition away from the previous energy mode, it has always been a case of more energy on top. The "transition" to coal required huge amounts of wood to build coal mines. The "transition" to oil required huge amounts of coal to make steel. The result is that we burn more wood and coal today than we ever did, as well as huge amounts of fossil fuels. So reduction must also include a very large drop in energy consumption across all sectors, commercial and private.

Importance of democratic processes in decision making

The complaint "we have the evidence and the solutions; we just need the political will" is common amongst climate scientists and others. Yet we have seen in our own region that imposing policies and "green" infrastructure on communities creates a backlash. Over the past year, Haslingfield Parish Council has demonstrated very effective ways of engaging with the community on proposed changes, through the several Neighbourhood Plan meetings, the recent East West Rail Public meeting, and the sharing of information through the website and newsletter. It could be argued that there is no more important step a small local authority like ours can take than to get people into a room with some informational input and the chance to air their concerns and come up with solutions and ideas that work for them.

Using the Impact Tool to create an Action Plan for our Parish

The tool divides emissions into five categories: Housing, Food and Diet, Travel, Waste, and Consumption of Goods and Services. Relative to the rest of the UK, our average per household annual carbon emissions for the categories of housing and travel are significantly above average. See figure 2, below from the attached CSE Impact Tool Report on our Parish, December 2024.

[3] https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/government-climate-policy-economic-impact/#heading-6
[4] https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/464145/more-and-more-and-more-by-fressoz-jean-baptiste/9780241718896

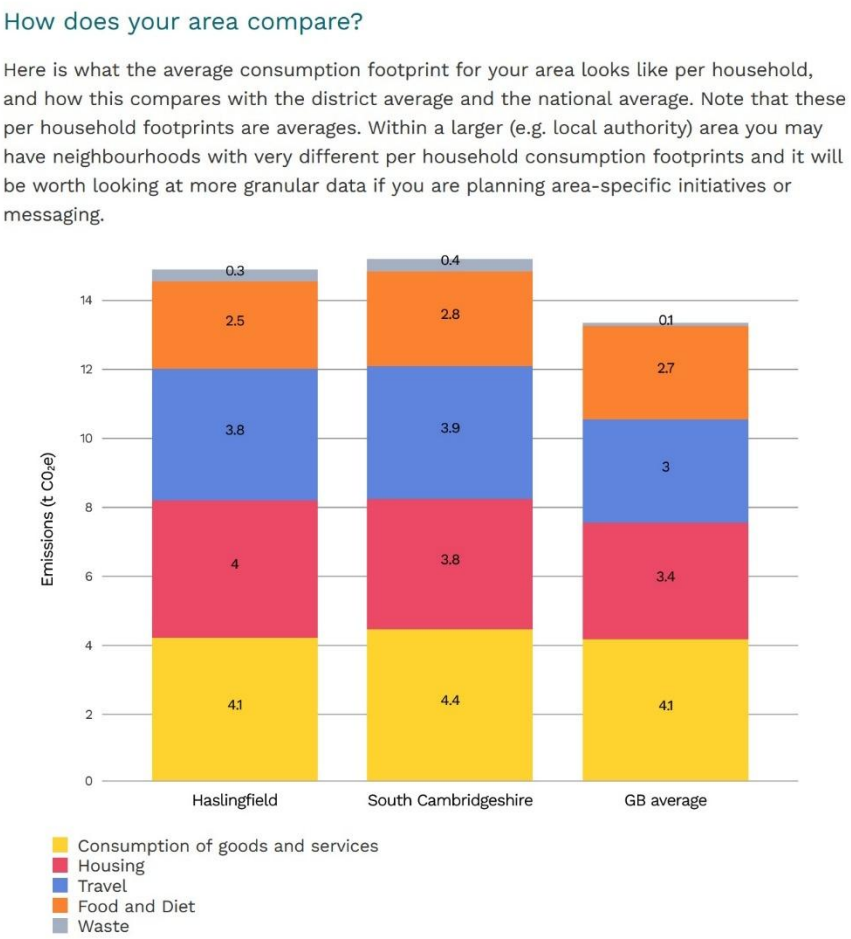

Figure 2 - How do Haslingfield emissions compare to South Cambs and GB average?

For the whole of Great Britain, average per household annual emissions in these categories are 3.4 and 3.0 tCO_2e, respectively. Our average per household Housing and Travel emissions are 4.0 and 3.8 tCO_2e. However our single greatest emissions category is consumption of goods and services at 4.1 tCO_2e per household per year. Interestingly, we are slightly below average for food and diet.

In addition to reporting on emissions, the Impact report also gives ideas communities can use to achieve reductions in each category. Therefore, while keeping the relevant goals from last year's plan, this draft uses those suggestions, as well as others from the Cambridgeshire County Council Community Energy Action Plan 2024, to suggest actions the Parish Council can take.

Where relevant, we have also divided goals into Influence – ways the PC can use the power of its position to influence behaviour and/or policy - and Actions – direct steps the PC can take to reduce emissions.

II. Goals

Goal 1: Continue to highlight and improve understanding of climate change impacts and ways communities can work together to reduce them and prepare for them

Influence:

a. Continue to use the Haslingfield Parish Council website, newsletter and social media to share information, highlight local activities, encourage reductions of emissions in all categories, celebrate successes, and demonstrate leadership.
b. Communicate PC goals and actions regularly.
c. Continue support for local eco events including repair cafes, jumble sales, litter picks, etc. Where possible add an eco element to all events the PC is involved in.

Actions:

a. Appoint an environment/biodiversity/climate change officer who will undertake training on climate change and steps Parish Councils can take to mitigate and prepare for it.
b. Use the Impact tool and report (impact-tool.org.uk) to annually check progress.

Goal 2: Ensure new buildings, extensions and development achieve highest possible emissions standards

Actions

a. Support Neighbourhood Plan policies requiring new builds and extensions to have highest net zero standards
b. All planning approvals to require high sustainability standards

Influence:

a. Request higher sustainability standards in planning responses and to local and national authorities
b. Share these intentions with residents and developers

Emissions Category – Housing

Goal 3: Reduce energy demand from existing buildings, including heritage and older buildings, via insulation and energy conservation

The Cambridgeshire County Council Community Energy Action Plan 2024 gives information on steps communities can take to reduce emissions from domestic energy. Two relevant excerpts:

"5.3: District Councils lead on domestic energy efficiency work. This is delivered and co-ordinated under the Action on Energy Cambridgeshire initiative (of which County Council is a member). This includes delivery of Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) funded upgrades for lower income, lower energy efficiency homes. Cambridgeshire Councils have also procured and vetted 5 contractors for domestic retrofit under Action on Energy Cambridgeshire. These contractors are used for HUG2 work and are also available for self-funding residents to commission work from. County Council's proposed actions aim to support the work of District Council's by mobilising communities to promote the uptake of grant funding and to make use of Action on Energy contractors for community-led, neighbourhood, installation schemes."

"6.5 - Domestic energy efficiency & renewables

6.5.1 Community groups could promote uptake of domestic insulation, energy efficiency and domestic renewables via their own information and marketing campaigns, to make residents more aware of the technologies, potential benefits and available grant funding.
Community groups could also take this a step further and facilitate neighbourhood wide retrofit schemes e.g. to simplify the process for residents, create a sense of community ownership over a programme and capture potential cost savings for multiple retrofits within a single community. This might involve the community group seeking expressions of interest from residents, arranging quotes from contractors and sharing experience within the community on proposals received and installations delivered."

Actions:

a. Use parish online (or https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/) and/or a survey to identify EPC ratings and heating type (gas, oil electric, heat pump) for all homes (some homes without EPCs may require a home visit).
b. Identify energy improvements needed for Village Hall, **including ensuring that energy supplier is a 100% renewable supplier[5]**
c. Report on findings and seek expressions of interest for a community retrofit or rooftop solar project.
d. Funding for the above actions, if needed, may be available from the District Council Zero Carbon Communities Fund

Influence:

a. Share information on HUG2 grants (https://www.actiononenergycambs.org/funding/home-upgrade-grant-2/)

Emissions Category – Housing

Goal 4: Support exploration of community energy projects

Community energy projects are projects to generate and potentially store energy in places the community wants and for the direct benefit of the community. Our community is precluded from wind energy projects because of the proximity of the Lord's Bridge Radio Telescope Array. However a solar farm or solar microgrid based around the Rec/Village Hall could be possible.

The Cambridgeshire County Council Community Energy Action Plan gives these details in section 3 of the report.

"3. Background - Community Energy

3.1 Community Energy in the UK comprised 206 MW of solar photovoltaics (PV), 113 MW of wind, 12 MW of hydroelectric and 4.7 MW of heat generation capacity in 2021. Community Energy England's 2024 State of the Sector Overview indicated that total capacity has now increased to 398 MW. The majority of recent community energy installations are rooftop solar PV projects.

[5] https://ecosend.io/blog/a-full-list-of-green-energy-suppliers-in-the-uk

3.2 Costs of building community energy projects can be funded from grants, community share offers, bonds and/or loans. To secure investment, projects need to be able to generate a return for co-op members, typically around the 5% mark. Community energy groups raise capital from share and bond offers on online platforms such as Community Energy England's website, Ethex5 etc. Projects generate revenue to cover operating costs and returns for members by selling electricity to the grid. Surplus income is often invested in other projects to benefit the community.

3.3 Projects sell their electricity to the grid via Power Purchase Agreements with electricity suppliers. Recently, innovative arrangements like Energy Local's Energy Local Clubs have become available which enable projects to offer discounted electricity prices to local residents when their projects are generating.

3.4 Renewable heat is a more challenging area for community energy projects. In 2021 there were only 3 new community energy heat installations, totalling 138 kW. All of these were heat pump projects and two were supported by the Renewable Heat Incentive, which has since closed to new projects."

Actions:

a. Include question about community energy in survey
b. Produce or support good policy on land use for community energy in Neighbourhood Plan
c. Consider expanding village hall retrofit projects to include community energy element (i.e EV charger powered by additional solar panels (over carpark, play area, etc.)

Goal 5: Encourage active travel and uptake of public transport

Transport is one of our emissions hotspots. However it is one of the hardest areas in which to take direct action. However the PC can gather information on options people might be interested in taking further.

Actions:

a. Carry out a survey of options for reducing travel emissions, i.e., a liftshare scheme to one or both park and rides, hospital, train station, Comberton Village College; a community mini bus; electric/cargo bike share; community EV charging
b. Build on results of survey

Influence:

a. Promote uptake of the new Tiger on demand scheme[6]

Emissions Category – Transport

Goal 6: Reduction of Consumption and Waste

Actions:

[6] https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/

a. Sponsor a swap and share stall in the village market run by volunteers and promoted via the newsletter and website. Residue taken to Emmaus
b. Communicate regularly to encourage use of recycling and ewaste bins on the rec
c. Organise twice yearly litter picks and use recycling bins
d. Sponsor annual repair café
e. Issue guidelines for jumble sales requiring sorting of recycling, donation of goods, maybe offer storage of high-quality unsold items.
f. Address issue of laminated poster proliferation by installing more new public noticeboards and developing a communication policy.
g. Continue to encourage and demonstrate a low emissions approach in the work of the parish council, including choice of contractors and materials, purchasing second hand where possible, and following the 5R's hierarchy[7]: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.
h. Support development of local services/commercial properties in Neighbourhood Plan where they provide a direct benefit to local residents in jobs, goods and services

Emissions Category – Goods and Services, Waste

Date adopted: April 2025

Date of review: April 2026

[7] https://greenbankwastesolutions.com/the-5rs-of-waste-management/