



## WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL CARBON POLICY

**Responsibility:** Finance & Administration/Full Council  
**Review Cycle:** Annually or earlier in the event of legislative changes

Date of Adoption/Renewal	Date for review
September 2019	September 2020

Withyham Parish Council acknowledges the threat of global warming due to the increase in carbon in the atmosphere arising out of human activity.

Accordingly the Parish Council will seek to reduce its own carbon footprint by choosing low or zero carbon alternatives where appropriate.

Examples of improvements that can and are being made include using a gas/electricity supplier that obtains power from renewable sources, planting trees in place of any that are removed from parish council land, switching streetlights to LED lanterns, and identifying more environmental alternatives in the parish office (see appendix A).

Advice and guidance on environmental matters can be complex and conflicting. The Clerks will therefore check for relevant guidance and incorporate as appropriate when purchasing supplies or seeking quotes. In making decisions on purchasing and activities, the Council is mindful that carbon impact is a factor in decision making alongside other requirements and obligations including remaining within budget, health and safety, legal requirements and compliance.

(Appendix A)

**Environmental Audit of Parish Office and Activities**

<b>What we do now</b>	<b>Environmental Improvements</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Cleaning Products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ecover washing up liquid</li><li>• Sustainable surface cleaner</li><li>• Toilet cleaner</li></ul>	<p>Ecover refills</p> <p>Surface cleaner Refills</p> <p>Ecover or equivalent</p>	<p>Clerk to buy refills when needed (St John's, Tunbridge Wells)</p> <p>Cleaner buy environmentally friendly toilet cleaner</p>
<p>Paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copying paper</li><li>• Toilet paper</li></ul>	<p>Recycled copying paper</p> <p>Recycled toilet paper</p>	<p>Assistant Clerk to buy</p>
<p>Refreshments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coffee</li><li>• Milk delivered in glass bottles</li></ul>	<p>Research recycling options for coffee pouches</p> <p>Continue milk in glass</p>	<p>Administrator to research</p>
<p>Heat and light:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Switch off lights when not needed</li><li>• Heating meets thermal comfort of those in office (heat loss through windows)</li><li>• Gas and electricity supplies switched to 'green' tariffs</li><li>• More efficient boiler installed at the parish office</li></ul>		<p>Clerk apply plastic covering where windows close to staff</p> <p>Long term consider double glazing to minimize heat loss</p>
<p>Car usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where possible car share when attending meetings and training</li></ul>		
<p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• bin in the office for all paper, plastic and cans to ensure</li></ul>		

they are correctly disposed of		
<b>Streetlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue transferring streetlight stock to LED lanterns</li> <li>• Part night-lighting of all streetlight stock saving power and relates to High Weald Dark Skies policies</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020/21 is year 3, 6-8 lanterns per year</li> <li>• Budgeted for and requested 2020/21</li> </ul>
<b>Budgeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set up an Earmarked Reserve for environmental initiatives</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £10,000 in 2020/21</li> </ul>
<b>Messaging</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share initiatives eg via newsletter and Facebook</li> <li>• Consider events</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next APA to include the environment as a focus. One outcome could be the formation of a Climate Action Group by interested residents (recommended by Friends of the Earth) to build positive community solutions, with support and encouragement from WPC</li> </ul>