

Establishing Baselines of Battle Civil Parish and Battle Town Council.

The Climate and Ecology Action Plan states:

Objective 1. To increase awareness of the climate emergency, to advise and enable residents in Battle Civil Parish to reduce their personal carbon footprint and to reduce the carbon footprint of Battle Town Council.

Objective 1 has two areas of focus.

- i. Battle Civil Parish (BCP)- Residents as individuals and collectively residents in TN33
- ii. Battle Town Council (BTC)

Objective 2. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and the natural assets of Battle Civil Parish.

The first step is to establish the relevant carbon footprints. This would provide a baseline to work from but also compare our parish to other parishes.

A. Battle Civil Parish residents' collective footprint

Data is available to the collective Carbon footprint of the parish by using the "carbon impact tool". This tool can provide a score for Battle Civil Parish. To note TN33 and BCP are not exactly the same area but for these purposes near enough. There are 2 types of footprint:

- i. Consumption-based carbon footprint**

This shows the emissions produced as a result of what people within your parish use in their daily lives. This includes the obvious things like gas, electricity and petrol, but also products like food and drink, clothes, shoes, consumer electronics and appliances, as well as financial services, even where these emissions take place outside of the local area.
- ii. Territorial-based carbon footprint**

This shows the emissions produced within the territorial boundaries of your parish and is based on what happens in that space. Therefore this includes emissions from the presence of roads or other transport systems, or local agriculture and manufacturing, whether or not local people were travelling on that road or use those products and services.

Residents and BTC have a much greater opportunity to influence its Consumption based carbon print.

Action by Sub-Committee

- i. Calculate annually the Battle Civil Parish's Consumption-based carbon footprint.
- ii. Promote resident's Individual Carbon foot-print take-up

A frequently used web site for U.K. individuals to establish their current carbon footprint is WWF Footprint Calculator. It is user friendly, and each entry takes about 10 minutes to complete. The main categories covered are food, travel, home and everything else. The TN33 average footprint is 14.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in October 22.

Action for Sub-Committee

- i. Encourage local residents to establish and record their score using the WWF website.
- ii. Agree the start date for TN33 residents' data recording
- iii. Repeat data recording 1 year later and compare and review.

B. Battle Town Council's footprint.

The Local Government Association Greenhouse Gas accounting tool is free to use for local authorities to calculate BTC's council emissions, both Scope 1 and 2 plus basic Scope 3 emissions. Within it there are some summary tables and graphs that might help convey this information to non-expert audiences. The Greenhouse Gas Accounting tool automatically links your data with the relevant UK Government Conversion Factors, taking away some of the burden of the calculations. This accounting tool is being used by Rother District Council.

The benefits include:

- standardising how Local Government measure and report carbon emissions
- knowing if your interventions have made a difference
- enabling consistent sector wide benchmarking and disclosure
- providing you with a robust and reviewed tool to calculate and store baselines and the outputs.

The benefits do not include recommendations on how reduce emissions.

What will the tool calculate for BTC?

The tool will calculate the council's direct CO₂ emissions (Scope 1 and 2) which are directly linked to the council's operations, plus some of the basic indirect CO₂e emissions (Scope 3). As such it will show the council the scale of the challenge (and potential cost) of achieving net zero carbon targets. The scope sheet also enables you to record the basis on which you have collated the data to make consistency with future years easier.

Action for Sub-Committee

- i. Suggest officers complete the Greenhouse Gas Accounting tool aligning with 20/21 financial data and yearly after that.
- ii. Sub-Committee analyse results and identify areas where carbon production can be reduced.

Biodiversity and Natural Assets

In the same way, the C&E Sub-Committee is required to establish a baseline for BTC for biodiversity.

Research is required to locate the data already available and will include tree cover and tree health, meadows and ponds within the BTC estate and identify any gaps. Natural assets include air and water. Natural Assets will be relevant within the parish rather than exclusively within the Town Council's estate.

Action for Sub-Committee

- i. Collate existing information regarding BTC's natural environment and identify gaps
- ii. Collate BCP's information about its natural resources

Cllr Sue Burton

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