

FTC CEE Strategy & Action Plan Update 2021/2

Introduction

In March 2020 Frome Town Council published a [Climate Emergency Strategy](#) and a [matrix of actions](#), produced using the recommendations of three community panels made up of 150 Frome residents and feedback from 290 schoolchildren. This report provides updates on the strategy and action plan including

- Climate & policy developments
- Modelling of Frome's carbon footprint
- Frome's Ecological Emergency declaration
- Overview of actions in last 18 months
- Priorities for 2022
- Community partnership

Climate update

Scientists have warned that we need to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; however as global emissions continue to rise, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned this year that we are likely to exceed this level by the early 2030s and are on a trajectory of 3°C degrees of warming in the second half of this century. The effects of climate change are now being felt widely across the globe in the form of floods, wildfires and more extreme weather events.

[The climate disaster is here – this is what the future looks like | Environment q| The Guardian](#)

If governments change course to get us on track to meet the Paris Agreement target of carbon neutrality by 2050, there is still a chance we can limit global heating to 2°C. This will produce more widespread and severe impacts than 1.5°C but will be more manageable than anything exceeding this.

The implications of a 2-3°C rise in temperature for the UK include coastal and river flooding, resettlement of coastal communities and vulnerability to the global effects of climate change including an increase of climate refugees, supply chain collapse, resource scarcity and conflict. A map of land in Somerset projected to be below the annual flood level in 2030 based on current trajectory can be found here [Climate Central | Land projected to be below annual flood level in 2030](#)

Policy updates

In the UK, there have been several significant targets announced over the past 18 months including a commitment to complete decarbonisation of the UK's electricity grid by 2035; scrapping of gas boilers by 2035; a Future Homes Standard for new houses to be introduced in 2025; a ban on sales of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. These targets are supported by policy developments including:

UK Government's [Net-zero strategy](#)

DfT's [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) & [Bus Back Better](#) strategy

[Local Authority Delivery Scheme](#), [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#) & [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#)

Somerset County Council's [Climate Emergency Strategy](#) sets a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. It also has significant focus on adapting Somerset for the anticipated impact of climate change.

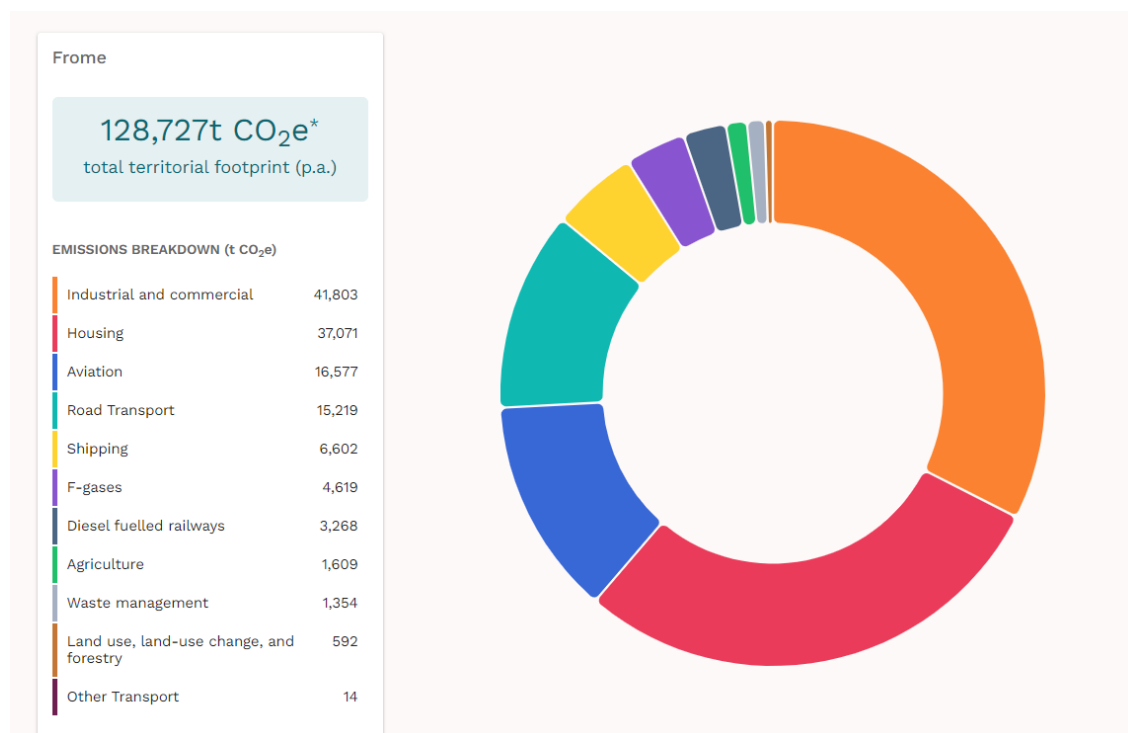
Mendip District Council has published a [report](#) on possible pathways to carbon neutrality in 2030.

Ecological Emergency

In July 2021 Frome Town Council declared an Ecological Emergency and will address the Climate and Ecological Emergency as one going forward. Frome already has a strong track record in managing our parks and green spaces for nature; banning glyphosate in 2015, supporting biodiversity through decreasing mowing in selected areas and undertaking a significant amount of tree and shrub planting. Our Ecological Emergency declaration seeks to build on this work and establish a baseline for biodiversity in the town against which to measure future progress.

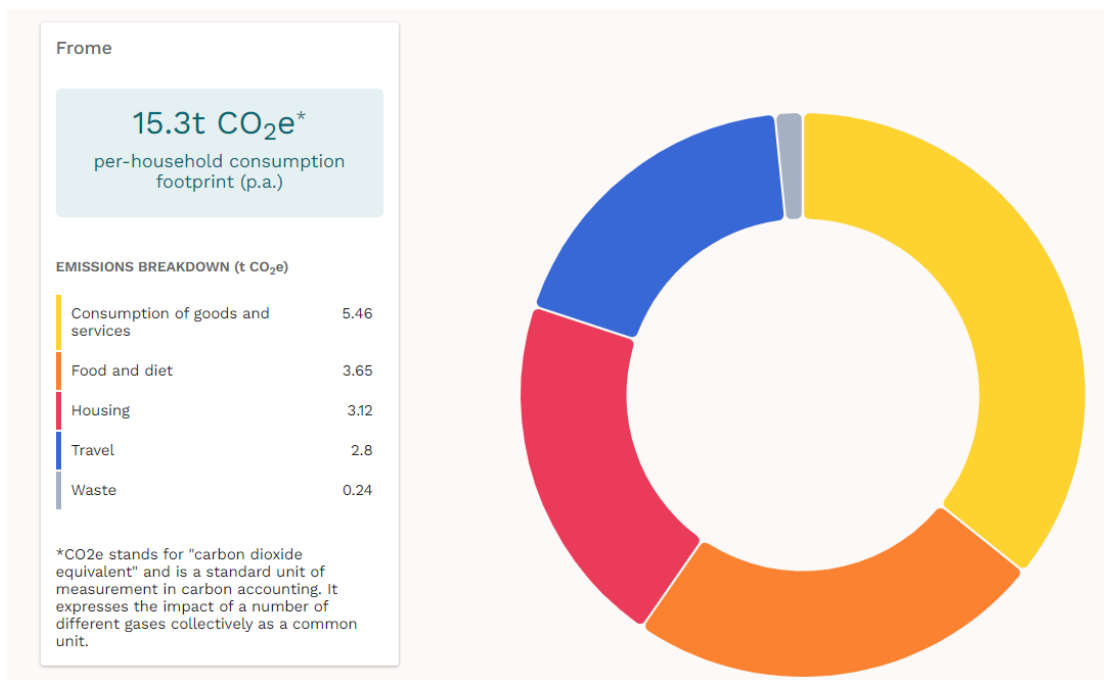
Frome's Carbon Footprint

The University of Exeter and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) have created a modelling tool for towns and parishes to understand their emissions footprint. [Explore their interactive IMPACT tool.](#)



This chart shows the “territorial” emissions of the whole town- meaning the emissions that are produced in Frome (apart from aviation and shipping which are included here as a proportion of the national total based on Frome’s population).

The tool demonstrates that 61% of Frome’s emissions are from energy use in buildings- both commercial buildings and housing. Therefore, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and moving towards renewable sources for heat and electricity is crucial for Frome to reducing its carbon footprint, Transport accounts for 12% of Frome’s territorial emissions.



This chart above shows the “consumption” emissions per household in Frome. This is the total amount of emissions associated with the things we buy.

The highest sources of emissions per household are: Food and diet 24%, Household energy 20% Purchase of goods (clothes, toys, furniture etc.) 19%, Travel 18%.

We can all take steps to reduce our consumption emissions through sharing more, wasting less and making more sustainable choices where possible.

Overview of last 18 months- Strategy & Action plan update

View the Climate Action Matrix for updates on the High Priority actions in the Plan. Highlights over the past year include:

Energy

- Frome Town Council completed an energy audit of Town Hall and secured a zero interest loan to install solar panels and LED lighting in the building. FTC has also funded bespoke draught proofing of the Town Hall’s traditional sash windows. The combined impact of these measures is estimated to be a £2500/year saving on energy bills and a reduction of 3.8t/CO₂ per year.
- We launched our Healthy Homes project with the Centre for Sustainable Energy as part of the Green and Healthy Futures Programme. So far, we have reached 650 Frome residents through monthly energy advice drop-ins, personalised letters from Frome Medical Practice, and online webinars and training. Over two years we aim to support 300 households in Frome to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, with an estimated carbon reduction of 120t CO₂/year.
- We launched a second round of installations through our Solar Streets initiative, with a further 30 installations completed or in the sales pipeline taking the total to 100 Frome households with solar installed, equating to an estimated 150t CO₂/year being saved.

- Frome Town Council has adopted [Climate Emergency Planning Guidance](#) setting out what we would like to see from new housing and non-residential developments in Frome. As Mendip District Council is the Planning Authority, we can only set guidance rather than binding targets, but we will be using this document to engage with the Planning Authority and developers of new housing schemes to push for higher standards.
- We have worked with Frome Renewable Energy Co-operative (FRECO) and Mendip District Council to commission a feasibility study exploring the potential for a community owned microgrid and zero carbon heat network for the development site at Saxonvale.

Transport

- Frome Town Council secured funding from Somerset's Climate Emergency Fund to develop a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, or LCWIP. Two online community engagement sessions were held with the transport consultant, to understand the needs of people in Frome. A draft Plan will be available for public review in early 2022.
- Frome Town Council secured funding from the Department for Transport via Somerset County Council to develop and trial a School Streets scheme on the roads connecting 5 schools in Frome. The layout of the scheme is flexible and is being co-designed with the community. The aim is to agree a scheme and trial it for 18 months beginning in 2022, to measure the impact on traffic levels and the number of students choosing to walk, cycle and taking public transport.
- As part of the Green and Healthy Future for Frome programme, Frome Town Council launched Cycle Together with local shop Pronto. Cycle Together enables participants to try an e-bike for 1 month, free of charge, with four cycle sessions with qualified trainers to increase confidence on the road.
- Frome Town Council ran a fortnight of activities with four schools in 2021 through its Active Travel Challenge, despite disruption due to COVID before summer holidays.
- Frome Town Council continues to work with local groups such as Friends of Frome Station, Frome's Missing Links, Walkers are Welcome and the Clean Air Network to deliver projects in the community.

Waste reduction & sharing

- Frome Town Council continues to support Community Fridge which is now saving over 30 tons of food going to waste each year
- We secured £2k through Be The Earth Foundation to support Frome's local food network. 40 people attended our workshop with local producers & retailers in September in partnership with Future Shed. Food Network newsletter is now set up and monthly meetings are being held through Future Shed and a report will be published in early 2022.
- Supporting the development of Frome Reuse Centre proposal with Edventure
- Relaunched Good Business visits with local businesses; 3 conducted to date. Updating Good Business pages on website to create a network with opportunities to share progress.
- Secured funding from Mendip Climate Emergency Fund to deliver sustainable periods campaign

Biodiversity & Ecological Emergency

- Secured funding from Mendip Climate Emergency Fund to deliver community wildlife surveys and interactive map in 2022
- In 2020-21, Frome Town Council and community partners planted over 5000 trees through our Wild About Trees project.

Communications

- Frome Town Council now employs a Resilience Communications Officer to help with promoting our activities and engaging with the local community
- Organised Frome's first Great Big Green Week in September 2021
- Explored creative methods of engagement including a 2030 "future special" wraparound of the Frome Times to coincide with COP26, reaching 11,000 households.

Priorities for 2022

Energy

- Work with Somerset County Council, Mendip District Council and FRECO to map renewable energy potential around Frome
- Scale up Healthy Homes work and train a team of Healthy Homes volunteers to provide energy advice and support
- Engage with planning decisions using newly developed Climate Emergency planning guidance
- Promote whole-house retrofit in the "able to pay" market and promote the Centre for Sustainable Energy's Futureproof service through the Somerset Retrofit Accelerator pilot project. Link with Bruton's Retrofit Coordinator project.
- Promote heat pump grants & opportunities
- Explore an energy saving competition through the "Transition Streets" model with the Neighbourhood networks
- Engage with schools through the Energy Sparks programme

Transport

- Publish Frome's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Implement trail of School Streets project
- Active Travel Challenge & ModeShift Stars
- Bike jumble & repair scheme
- Explore E-cargo bike delivery scheme in Frome

Resources

- Develop sustainable periods campaign with Frome Medical Practice and Frome College; work with the Womens Environment Network to deliver training
- Explore waste reduction measures across Frome including Terracycle boxes, water refill stations, reusable cups & containers at cafes and venues, Frome Independent.
- Retain Plastic Free Communities status through engagement with businesses, schools and other communities allies, and organise plastic free awareness events such as film screenings
- Continue to support and promote sharing initiatives including SHARE library, Streetbank, clothes, toy, present swaps, Community Fridge

- Organise a school uniform swap in the summer holidays
- Promote food security initiatives and local food production/retail through Frome Food Network project
- Work with Somerset Food trail to deliver a Frome “cluster” for the trail in July 2022
- Evolution of Good Business Framework, to create networking opportunities for sustainable businesses

Green spaces & biodiversity

- Work with the Neighbourhood Networks’ Wild Bunch to engage communities in wildlife gardening to decrease habitat fragmentation and extend existing wildlife corridors
- Develop a community wildlife survey and development of a community digital wildlife mapping tool for Frome through working with Somerset Environmental Records Centre
- FTC Rangers to adopt a plan to further increase biodiversity and low carbon practices across FTC’s parks and green spaces, in partnership with the community

Adaptation & Resilience

As well as trying to mitigate climate change by reducing our emissions as quickly as possible, it is important to acknowledge that climate change is already taking place and we are likely to feel both the local and global impacts of this in the coming decades. Therefore, adapting to a changing world, and continuing to build local resilience, need to be prioritised alongside reducing emissions. This includes ensuring we can produce more of what we need ourselves; building community cohesion and supporting personal resilience and mental health.

Monitoring and reporting

Frome Town Council will work with the community through the Climate Action Group to report back against the actions set out in the Matrix each year and set out priorities for the year ahead. Where possible we will set out the estimated carbon savings of each action, recognising that to do so in any level of detail will require dedicated expertise and resources. Frome Town Council currently employs a Climate Researcher to evaluate the climate and health impact of the Green and Healthy Futures programme; we would love to find the resources to undertake this kind of evaluation more widely.

Community partnership

As a Town Council, we cannot achieve our climate goals without the community we are here to serve. We work with existing groups, such as Sustainable Frome and Future Shed and support community projects through the Town Council’s community grants schemes.

We are also setting up a Climate Action Group that will meet quarterly to provide space for members of the public to speak to the Council’s Resilience team and work together on the actions set out in our plan. The first meeting will take place on the 25th January 2022, more details can be found [here](#).

Consultation

The actions set out here and in the updated Matrix are in draft form, we would love to hear your feedback and ideas for how Frome can address the Climate and Ecological Emergency. Please send any feedback to Alex Nettle anettle@frometowncouncil.gov.uk or join the Climate Action Group.

Further resources

Frome Town Council <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/sustainability-and-resilience/>

Green and Healthy Future Frome <https://greenhealthyfuturefrome.org/>

Sustainable Frome <http://transitionfrome.org.uk/>

Ashden- climate action co-benefits https://ashden.org/storage/2020/09/CAC-Chapters-all_new-brand.pdf

Friends of The Earth <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change>

Climate Emergency UK <https://www.climateemergency.uk/>

Transition Network <https://transitionnetwork.org/>

Doughnut Economics Action Lab <https://doughnuteconomics.org/>

Climate Outreach <https://climateoutreach.org/>