



Misterton & West Stockwith Parish Councils' Green Group

ACTION PLAN

TOWARDS A SAFER FUTURE

In April 2022, the Misterton & West Stockwith Parish Council's Green Group produced a leaflet that was distributed to all households in the two villages. It was entitled *How safe is our future?*

Now the Green Group wants to answer that question with steps we can take towards a safer future.

The leaflet in April outlined a number of things we can do to counter the rate at which the world is warming up. It also introduced a project, Bee Kind, to grow wildflowers that provide safe sites for the dwindling numbers of pollinating insects. And there was a six-point Action Plan to combat climate change – simple things that we all can do.

Even since April, a NASA global climate change report says: "...the effects of human-caused global warming are happening now, are irreversible on the timescale of people alive today, and will worsen in the decades to come".

So this Action Plan builds on the one in the April leaflet, taking into account the findings of two further reports by the Centre for Sustainable Energy that are specific to our villages: *Carbon Footprint Report – Misterton* and *Carbon Footprint Report – West Stockwith*. These were also published in April 2022.

A guiding principle of the two Parish Councils' Green Group is what we, as individuals, can do to tackle climate change. We can't leave it to the international community. We can't leave it to Government. We can't leave it to county and district councils.

What can WE do to tackle climate change? Take a look at the Action Plan.

Unsure what climate change and net zero are? Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. We reach net zero when the amount we add is no more than the amount taken away. Why does it matter? Climate change. The more greenhouse gases produced, the warmer the earth becomes. The warmest 20 years on record have been in the last 22 years according to the World Meteorological Organisation. Even with a tiny rise in global temperatures, we feel the effects with erratic weather patterns: heatwaves and fires, floods and severe storms, loss of polar ice, and rising sea levels.

The Parish Councils are looking at supporting a six-point action plan to combat climate change. Here's how our communities shape up and where we could do better:

Misterton				West Stockwith			GB average	
	Total emissions*	Per-household emissions*	%		Total emissions*	Per-household emissions*	%	Per-household emissions*
Total	16551	18	100		2643	19	100	
Use of goods and services	5029	5.6	30		831	6	31	5.4
Travel	4134	4.6	25		673	4.8	25	3.1
Housing	3928	4.4	24		610	4.4	23	3.5
Food & Diet	3413	3.8	21		522	3.8	20	3.6
Waste	47	0.1	<1		7	<0.1	<1	1

*CO₂e stands for carbon dioxide equivalent and is a standard unit of measurement in carbon accounting

Both villages could do better in four areas, where per-household emissions are above the GB average:

- Use of goods and services: this covers all household goods but not food, and services such as maintenance and repair of the home, vehicles and other equipment, banking and insurance, medical services, education costs, TV/internet/phone, and other fees and subscriptions
- Travel: transport choices
- Housing: use of energy in the home
- Food & Diet: consumption of food and drink.

Based on this (from the *Carbon Footprint Report – Misterton* and *Carbon Footprint Report – West Stockwith*), and the Sustainability for All commitments, see how we can improve our carbon footprint.

Evaluation

Progress against the actions below can be re-assessed at meetings of the Green Group and in future carbon footprint reports and will be reported back to Parish Councils. Parish Councils should have a standing item on the agenda on the work of the Green Group. The Parish Councils will continue to include 'green issues' in their regular newsletters to residents.

ACTION PLAN FOR ALL

Commitment	How	
	...as individuals	...as Parish Councils
Reduce emissions	Drive electric or hybrid cars; install electric vehicle charging points at home. Reduce petrol and diesel-powered vehicle usage. Use public transport, including trains rather than planes, particularly by frequent flyers. Walk or cycle, where possible.	Insist on electric vehicle charging points in new builds through the planning process, and for public access. Work from home, where possible.
Save energy	Don't leave appliances on standby. Turn central heating down – and wear an extra layer. Put in loft and other insulation with additional measures for heritage buildings. Decarbonised power generation, eg use of renewable energy sources like wind power, solar power, and biomass. Check out if grants are available.	Through the planning process, insist on solar panels on existing buildings and on new builds, electric vehicle charging points in homes, new builds, businesses, and for public access. Turn the heating down in the Library.
Implement the 3 Rs	The 3 Rs are: reduce, reuse, recycle. Add a 4 th R: recover. Buy less; re-use; and recycle more.	Promote recycling opportunities. Promote ways to reduce food waste: the District Council will be collecting food waste in the future and will provide monitoring data. Support 'swap shop' events. Explore the 'repair café' concept: a central point for residents to bring broken goods and be shown how to repair them (or have them repaired) instead of throwing them out.
Diet? Eat a low-carbon one	Eat more plant-based foods. Shop locally. Eat local produce so reducing 'food miles'. Buy foods that are in season. Avoid processed foods. Reduce food waste.	Encourage healthy eating at Parish Council-sponsored events. Provide information on reducing food waste. Support agriculture that reduces emissions and increases soil carbon through regenerative practices such as reducing erosion and water pollution, and, in turn, producing healthier soils.
Take action to save forests	Plant more trees. Don't tarmac or concrete gardens and driveways. Provide insect and pollination sanctuaries. Buy wood with a certification or seal showing its sustainable origin (Chain of Custody information trail about the path taken to track raw materials from origin to the store shelf or end-user).	Through the planning process, retain established canopy-cover trees. Buy office supplies that have been recycled, eg paper, ink cartridges, etc.
Demand sustainable measures	Save rainwater for garden use. Compost suitable materials to fertilise and improve the soil. Buy products that use minimal packaging. Don't use peat compost. Stop burning coal. Don't replace hedgerows with sterile wooden fencing.	Make demands of Government: renewable energy, regulatory measures such as properly labelling products, sustainable public transport, promote the use of bicycles and other non-polluting transportation methods, national standards to manage waste, etc. Use the planning process to push for sustainability (see Save energy). Through the planning process, push for houses that are built to be net zero and decarbonised (renewable power) heating systems.