

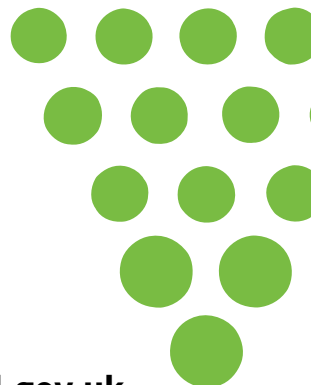


CORNWALL
COUNCIL
one and all • onen hag oll

Climate emergency

Cornwall's call to action

My world. **Our planet**



www.cornwall.gov.uk



Foreword

The climate emergency is the defining challenge of our time. Across the world ecosystems are being changed beyond recognition. As our dependence and connection to the wider planet becomes clearer, so too does the role Cornwall can play in this challenge on both a local and a global scale.

The impact of Covid-19 on our businesses, our services and our individual lives has demonstrated the absolute importance of continuing to build a Cornwall that is resilient against the uncertain future that the climate emergency will bring. We are learning more about which parts of our lives we need to change in order to keep the things we often take for granted, and how unpredictable changes can bring unexpected benefits.

The Carbon Neutral Cornwall programme is a commitment to our future, a promise to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030, ensuring that Cornwall plays its part in restricting global warming to 1.5°C. Our actions must dramatically reduce our carbon emissions, limiting the potential impacts of the climate emergency, but also adapt our society to meet the changes that are already coming. We must make sure that no-one is left behind, and that the Cornwall we are working towards is a Cornwall for one and all.

This challenge can give us hope, not just that we can find our way through an emergency, but that we can rise to the challenge and come out the other side even better than before. We're not starting from scratch, we already have pioneers in our communities and organisations across Cornwall, demonstrating how we can change the ways we live, work and play. But there is always room for new ideas.

While the council has a large role to play in our response to the climate emergency, as well as support from national Government, meeting this ambition of carbon neutrality is not something that we can do alone. In our homes, in our communities, in our work and in our groups, every one of us has a shared responsibility to find and use the solutions to reduce the impact on our planet and create the Cornwall we want and need for our shared future.

Edwina Hannaford,
Cornwall Councillor,
Portfolio holder for Climate Change
and Neighbourhoods

Raglavar

An goredhom hin yw an chalenj styryansek a'gan osweyth. Dres oll an bys yma ekosystemys ow pos chanjys dres aswonvos. Kepar dell dyv klerra agan trestyans hag omjunyans dhe'n planet efanna, yndella y hwra an rann a yll Kernow hy gwari y'n chalenj ma, war skeul ha leel hag ollvysel.

An strekys a Covid-19 war agan negysyow, agan gonisyow ha'gan bewnansow unnik re dhiskwedhas an poos purra a besya drehevel Kernow hag yw gwedhyn erbynn an termyn a dheu ansur a wra dri an goredhom hin. Yth eson ni ow tyski moy a-dro dhe by rannow a'gan bewnansow eus edhom dhyn chanjya may hyllyn gwitha an taklow a wren ni degemeres avel agan gwir, ha fatel yll chanjyow andharganadow dri prowryow na veu deseveys.

An dowlen Kernow Garbon-Diduel yw omrians dh'agan termyn a dheu, ambos dhe oberi may hyllyn bos karbon-diduel erbynn 2030, yn unn surhe y hwra Kernow gwari hy rann ow strotha tommheans ollvysel dhe 1.5° C. Res yw dh'agan gwriansow lehe yn tramasek agan dyllansow karbon, yn unn finwetha strokosow galladow an goredhom hin, mes keffrys aswiwa aga kowethas dhe omvetya gans an chanjyow usi seulabrys ow tos. Res yw dhyn ni surhe nag yw denyth gesys war agan lergth, ha bos an Gernow hag eson ni ow strivya hy havos, yw Kernow rag onan hag oll.

An chalenj ma a yll ri dhyn govenek, nyns yw yn sempel dell yllyn kavos agan fordh dre wordhom mes y hyllyn omsevel dhe'n chalenj ha dos yn-mes a'n tu aral gwella hwath es kyns. Nyns eson ni ow talleth orth an dalleth: yma genen seulabrys ragresoryon y'gan kemenethow ha kowethyansow dres Kernow, ow tiskwedhes fatel yllyn chanjya an fordhow may hwren ni bewa, oberi ha gwari. Mes yma pub prys spas rag tybyansow nowydh.

Kynth eus dhe'n konsel rann veur dhe wari y'gan gorthyp dhe'n goredhom hin, ha skoodhyans dhyworth Governans kenedhlek magata, omvetya gans an ughelhwans ma a heptueth-karbon nyns yw neppyth a yllyn y wul agan honan. Y'gan treven, y'gan kemenethow, y'gan ober hag y'gan bagasow, peub ahanan a'gan beus charj kevrennys dhe gavos hag usya an digolmow dhe lehe an strekys war agan planet ha gwruthyl an Gernow anedhi may'gan beus mall ha res rag agan termyn a dheu kevrennys.

Edwina Hannaford,
Konseler Kernow,
Synsyas Plegel rag Chanj an Hin ha Kentrevethow

Where we are now

Responding to the climate emergency

The world is changing, and we need to change with it. The impacts of climate change are already being felt all over the world, including more extreme temperatures, threats to wildlife, loss of food sources and more. Here in Cornwall we have seen unprecedented flooding and unseasonable weather in the last few years.

In January 2019 Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency, recognising the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis. While the whole world needs to adapt, in Cornwall we have an opportunity to lead the way in demonstrating what is possible.

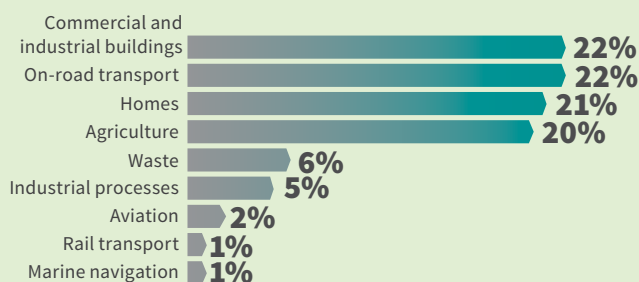
The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated how we are closely connected to the wider world, and has raised challenges to how we travel, how we feed ourselves and how we keep Cornwall safe for future generations.

Many of these changes are directly linked to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise. These are the gases we mean when we talk about reducing our emissions, and for the sake of simplicity we often refer to them all as carbon emissions.



The Climate Stripes graph above, created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading, shows a clear trend in England towards a hotter climate since records began. Each colour stripe represents the average temperature per year from 1884 to 2018, ranging from 7.6°C (dark blue) to 10.8°C (dark red).

This changing temperature will have a huge effect on the way we live and is already impacting people around the world. If we continue the way we are, Cornwall's carbon emissions will continue to grow, leading to further dangerous impacts, some of which are shown to the right.



- More storms/ extreme weather
- Species extinction
- Emergence of disease (ie Covid 19)
- Forced migration

We must act now to reduce these impacts as much as possible and prepare for the changes which have already begun.

Cornwall's emissions come from all parts of the way we live, work, eat and use resources. All of these areas will need to change in order to reduce our emissions and become carbon neutral.

Where we need to be

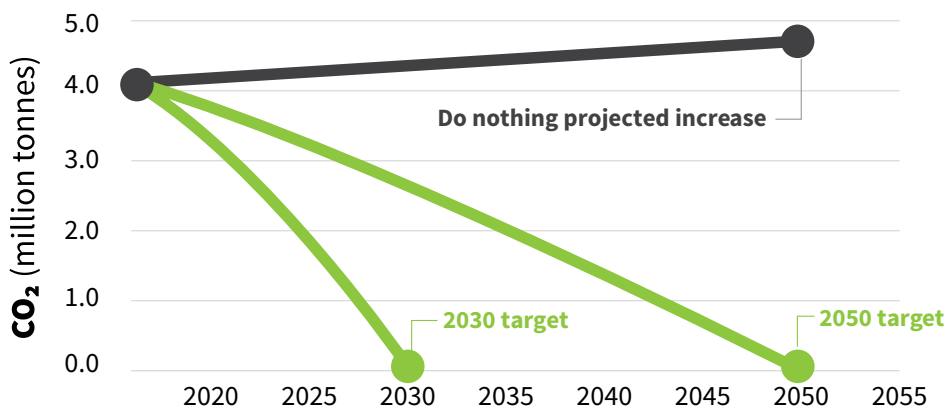
Becoming carbon neutral

“Carbon neutrality... refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset.”

UN Environment Programme

Becoming carbon neutral can be achieved in two ways, by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases we are producing and by capturing the carbon dioxide we do produce so that it can't enter the atmosphere.

The Council has set an ambitious target of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, ahead of the UK Government's target of 2050. This will give us our best chance of keeping global warming below 1.5°C, the point at which the climate impacts we're already experiencing will become potentially catastrophic. 2030 is a challenging target but it is a necessary one if we are to make real progress towards this urgent goal.



“We have set the ambitious target of becoming **Carbon Neutral by 2030**”

There are lots of different ways to approach reducing carbon emissions, and some of them have a bigger impact than others. To meet our targets, we will need to focus on actions which will bring the biggest changes.

Avoid

If an activity creates carbon, the most effective way to reduce the emissions is to avoid the activity in the first place. This is not always possible, but should always be considered as the action with the most impact.

Reduce

If an action is unavoidable, it should be made more efficient. This will reduce the amount of energy which is required and therefore reduce the emissions involved.

Replace

If the amount of emission cannot be reduced, the type of technology used should be replaced with low or zero carbon to lower the emissions as much as possible.

Offset

Finally, if no other options are available, the unavoidable emissions should be offset. This means taking actions elsewhere which will capture the same amount of carbon so the emissions are balanced out. This is the last resort, but is critical to becoming carbon neutral.

Where we need to be

A vision for Cornwall

Becoming carbon neutral is not the ultimate goal. It is a process by which we are most likely to get to where we want to be – a Cornwall which is just, thriving and resilient for one and all. If we focus only on the targets we risk the climate emergency becoming an accelerator of inequality, when it is only through including everyone that we will adequately respond to the challenges ahead.

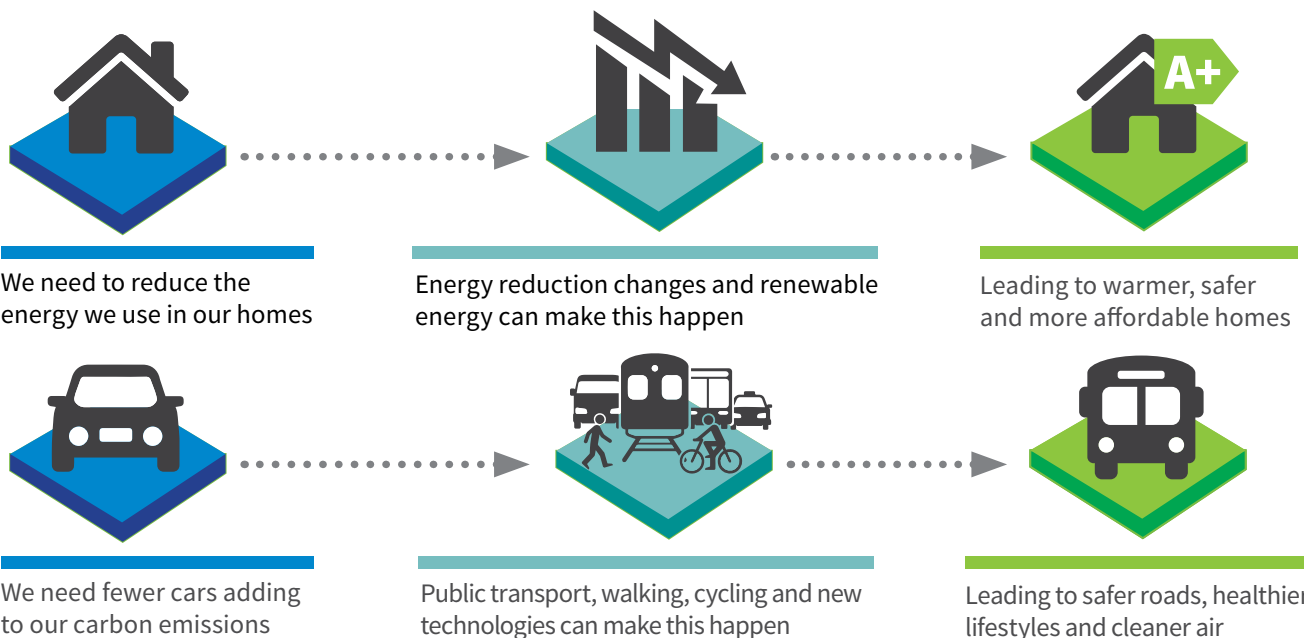
New opportunities and threats will arise before we reach 2030, and new ideas will be required to meet them. Cornwall Council, in its role of working with others across the various sectors which are contributing to our carbon emissions, will need to make sure that solutions to one problem do not make other problems worse further down the line, or move the negative impacts from one area or group of people to another.



For Cornwall, as well as our many natural resources, we also have unique challenges which will need to be understood in order to make sure that we are all able to live well. These include transport within Cornwall and connecting us to the rest of the UK and the wider world, how much food we can grow ourselves and how much we

need from elsewhere, how much energy we can generate ourselves and the number and size of businesses which are based here.

Our challenge is to reduce our carbon emissions while making sure that we all have access to the things we need to stay connected, healthy and thriving.



Beyond Cornwall

We have a duty to act in Cornwall, but the causes and impacts of the climate emergency stretch far beyond our own borders. This is a global issue and will require people all over the world to learn from each other. Cornwall is well-placed to be a pioneer of carbon reduction, but this will only be possible

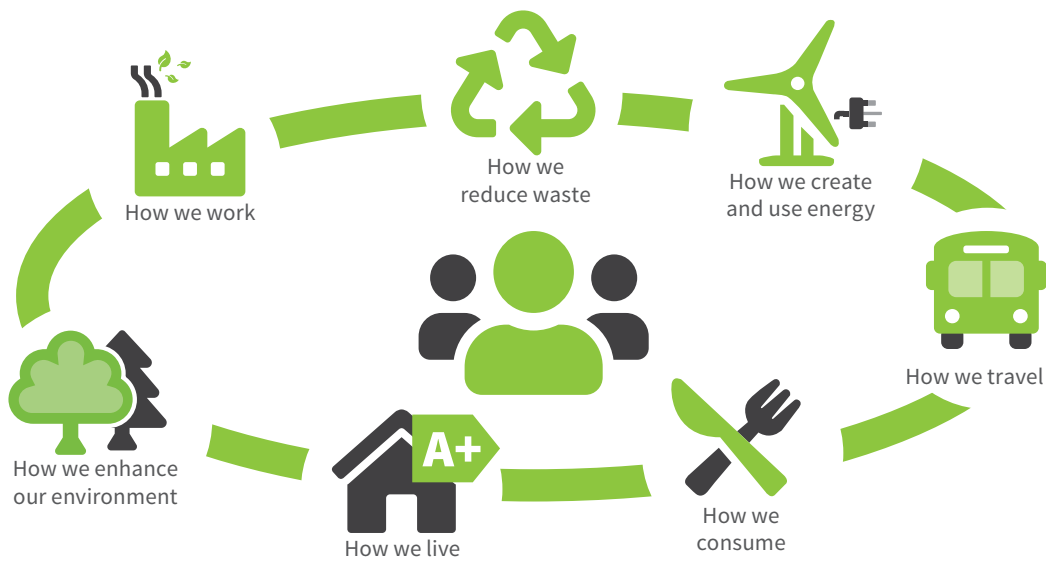
if we learn from other pioneers, and it is important that we share what we have learned as widely as possible, including what is being done already by the existing array of Cornish businesses and organisations at the forefront of carbon reduction.

Cornwall's response

To make the wider changes necessary for a Carbon Neutral Cornwall, the Council cannot act on its own. We all need to rise to the challenges, acting at home, in the workplace, and as Cornwall as a whole. It will require major investments, changes to systems of how we use and interact with energy and changes to how we live our lives and define success. It will also redefine how we manage and interact with our environment. Above all, it will

involve shared ambition and a shared response to deal with these complex challenges head on.

Some of these changes will challenge us, some of them will help us to save money or lead healthier lives. All of them will reduce the chances of more catastrophic changes to which we are not yet prepared to respond.

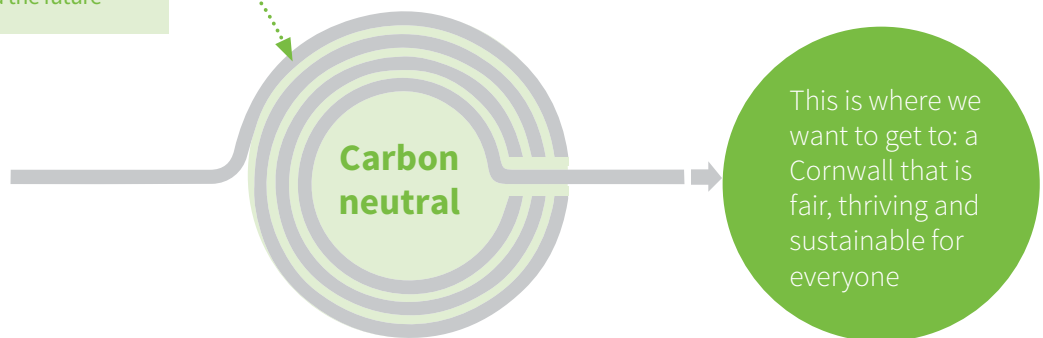


We are all part of this system, and changing it will require action from everyone. We need to change the options we have and the decisions we make. The answer lies in a balance between changing how we do these things and changing the systems they are part of.

The Climate Emergency is what is known as a **complex problem**, which means that it does not have a clear solution. While we know the direction we need to be travelling in, the outcome is unpredictable and we can't rely on only a few of us finding the right answers. We need everyone to share their ideas and responses for how we can respond collectively across the whole of Cornwall.

This is the complex bit: there are many ways we could become carbon neutral, and we need to make choices which balance the present and the future

This is where we are now: we know that we need to make large changes in how we live to reduce our carbon emissions

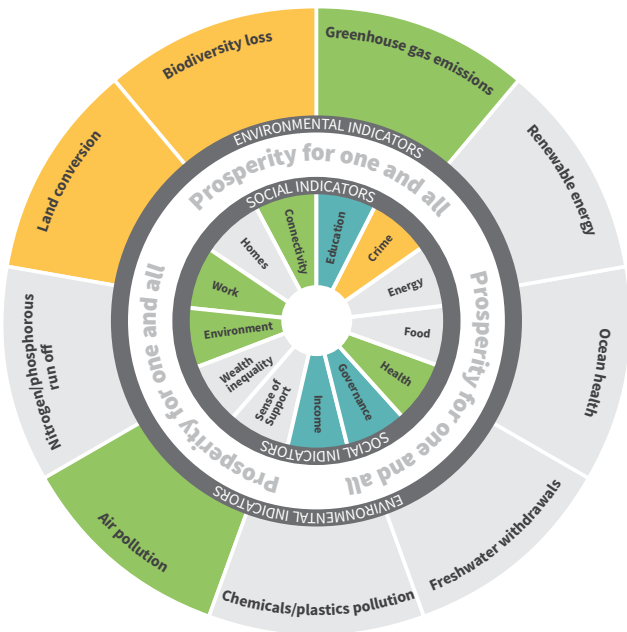


Over the next few pages we will breakdown the areas listed above, showing examples of how we are changing them and offering ideas for actions we can all take together. Whether you start making these changes or come up with your own ideas to share, we want to know...

How will you play your part in Cornwall's response to the Climate Emergency?

Cornwall's response

Prosperity for One and All



An example of the decision wheel showing a range of impacts.

Shared decisions

By embedding the wheel across decision making processes, Cornwall Council aims to enable our people and planet to thrive, a decision which other cities and regions around the world are starting to follow, adopting similar approaches for their response to the economic challenges brought about by Covid-19 and the climate emergency. Like climate change, Covid-19 cannot be treated as a one-off or finite event with a clear beginning or end. Decision making must help residents, businesses and communities to become more resilient in a period of unprecedented change.

The wheel is based on work done by the economist Kate Raworth and her Doughnut Economics research. Cornwall Council have adapted it to meet the needs of Cornwall, with our unique resources and challenges, but the work doesn't stop here. If all of Cornwall is going to take action on the climate emergency, everyone needs to be making decisions based on how it will impact the future for everyone. Businesses, community groups, families, hospitals - we all have an impact and we all have the chance to think about the decisions we are making.

Consider the impacts in the decision wheel above

How can you make decisions which support the prosperity of One and All across Cornwall?
Share your ideas on The Hive at letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall

Decision making

The Council's decision-making wheel was designed to understand this complexity, ensuring that future decisions will not negatively impact on residents. The wheel shows environmental and social implications of decisions and will be used in all Council decision making processes.

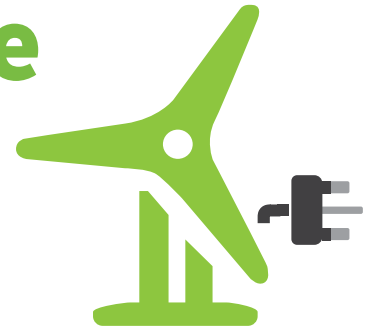
It is designed so that the outer environmental sections and the inner social sections are considered alongside each other to provide a wider view of the decision-making process. The wheel will be used to evidence how projects will provide residents with environmental as well as social benefits and how any adverse effects will be reduced.

The wheel is helping build our understanding of relevant social, economic and environmental concerns for the work that the Council does across Cornwall to a broad cross section of people involved in shaping the future direction of the work that we do.

It is shaping a new way of thinking and helping people understand the inter-connectedness of our lives with the environment in which we live. It aims to focus the limited resources of our decision-making structures onto the most relevant issues which now formally include the environment and our impact on it.

Cornwall's response

How we create and use energy



Energy production is a huge contributor of carbon emissions. Reducing these emissions will require a shift in the way we create and use energy at work and at home. This means a move away from oil, gas and coal and towards energy from renewable sources like the wind and the sun.

Case study – Ventonteague wind turbine

The Council has now constructed Cornwall's first smart grid enabled wind turbine at Ventonteague and the first in Cornwall since 2016. The turbine started generating enough electricity to power around 1,100 homes in September 2020 and will cut our greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2,800 tonnes a year for the next two decades.

Case study – Local Energy Market (LEM)

A £19m trial is underway to test how renewable energy can be stored and sold at a local level. Up to 150 homes and businesses across Cornwall have received support to participate in the project which demonstrates the role that flexible energy creation and storage can have on driving down energy prices across the UK.



Businesses and households can all invest in innovative renewable energy sources, bringing down the costs of powering our lives while contributing to a dramatic reduction in the emissions we generate from the type of energy we use.

A shared response

We need to see more renewable energy projects installed across Cornwall, but not everyone is able to do this themselves. As the technology becomes cheaper and accessible to more people, there are other ways we can collectively support new clean energy.

Give your support. Get behind new developments in your area, find out the facts about the impact renewables could have for you, attend local meetings and events.

Look into options. Discover what could work for you and your home, get free impartial advice from experts, work out the long term cost benefits you could receive.

The potential for Cornwall

Cornwall already generates over a third of its electricity from renewable sources, an increase of around 600% in just 10 years. There is huge potential to grow this amount even further through harnessing the natural resources on our doorstep, including wind and solar.

Other renewable energy sources are also becoming increasingly possible, such as deep geothermal energy, floating offshore wind farms and anaerobic digestion which turns food waste into energy. To reach our full potential we need to create a smarter electric network to make better use of the energy we generate to store and use here in Cornwall, and this will require support from national government.

Cornwall's response

How we travel



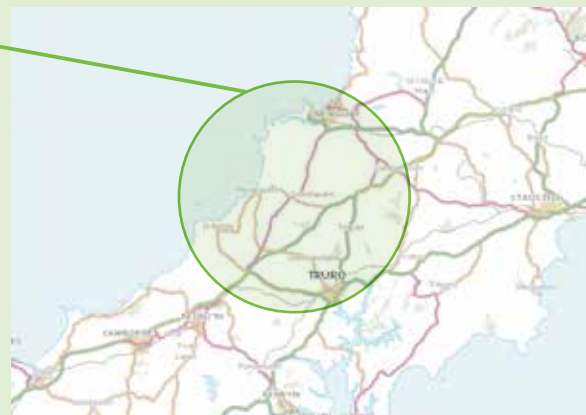
Transport is one of Cornwall's highest emitting sectors, producing around 22% of our carbon emissions, and it is the only area where emissions are still rising. Covid-19 has demonstrated how transport can shape our lives and our unique geography makes this a challenging area to change. But there are many ways that we can have a positive impact while still making the most of all that Cornwall has to offer.

Case study – The Saints Trails

A 30km network of trails (known collectively as the 'Saints Trails') is being built to connect communities, make access easier to key places and help address traffic and air quality issues. The four new networks of cycle and walking routes will also give people healthier options to travel across Cornwall.

Case study – Reduced bus fares scheme

Following a £23.5m funding package from national Government, Cornwall will be running a 4 year pilot project to reduce fares and encourage more people to use buses. This is part of a wider plan to create an integrated SMART ticketing system for bus, rail and ferry to make it as easy and convenient as possible for residents and visitors to use all forms of public transport.



Connection beyond Cornwall's borders will continue to be important, whether by road, rail, sea or air. The way we travel and trade will need to become more efficient, and produce fewer emissions, to ensure that the essential journeys which shape our lives can continue.

The potential for Cornwall

Transport across Cornwall must be accessible, affordable and reliable, with no-one left behind. A carbon neutral Cornwall will have a huge range of options to help everyone get around, from commuters on their daily route to work to tourists visiting for the weekend.

Many existing journeys can be made in the same way, using transport which creates greatly reduced emissions, for example electric cars or buses powered by bio-methane instead of petrol or diesel. Some journeys will need new solutions, including more connected public transport options and improved walking and cycling paths.

A shared response

We can all change the way we travel across Cornwall and beyond, making the most of existing options and supporting the development of new ways to get around.

Drive less. Take public transport where possible, car share with colleagues, family and friends, make more journeys by foot or by bike.

Take fewer flights. Use public transport for holiday travel, or attend work conferences online instead of in person, saving time and money.

Cornwall's response

How we consume



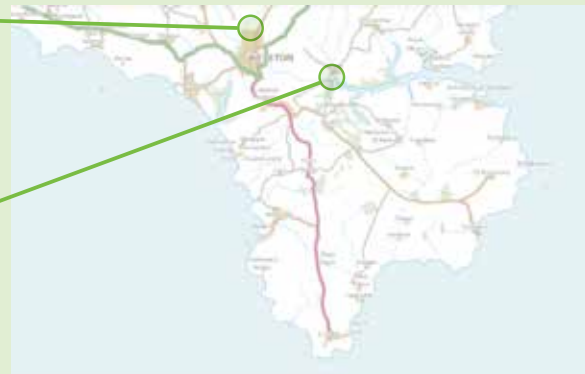
What we buy is important. From what we eat to what we wear, and everything in between, our choices can have a positive or negative impact on both us and our planet. In the Climate Emergency, beyond the limitations brought by Covid-19, our choices will become more limited as changing temperatures affect what can be grown, built or bought in Cornwall and around the world. Potential increases in prices for food and other essential items could also put thousands of people at risk.

Case Study – Frugi ●

Based in Helston, Frugi create organic clothing for children. Their products have received many awards for their commitment to using materials which benefit both the planet and the lives of those who make them.

Case Study – The Cornish Seaweed Company ●

On Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula, the UK's first successful commercial seaweed farm is growing food which is both healthy but also reduces the amount of emissions in the atmosphere. Rich in minerals and vitamins, seaweed could play a key role in the diets of the future. Additionally, the carbon reduction benefits come alongside a biodiversity boost for marine species, as well as not requiring land, chemicals or fresh water to grow.



We also have a thriving small business industry, with pioneering and award winning companies which can set an example to new and existing businesses looking to adapt to the changes that the Climate Emergency will bring.

A shared response

We have great power in what we choose to buy, and the potential impact that changing our habits can have on our health and our carbon emissions are huge.

Balance your plate. Reduce your emissions and increase the nutritional value of your meals with a more balanced diet, including less red meat and more fresh vegetables.

Buy locally. Support local businesses, including farms and restaurants growing and serving local Cornish produce, to reduce the amount we have to import.

Look at the labels. Wherever possible, discover more about where your items come from, what impact they have on the planet and look for affordable choices which reduce your impact.

The potential for Cornwall

Cornwall is famous for its local produce, with our milder climate well suited for growing fruit and vegetables. As the climate changes, we will need to make changes to how we eat, to ensure that we can feed ourselves and not depend on food imported from elsewhere which will become more expensive and less reliable over time.

We are well-placed to pioneer a sustainable approach to managing our fish stocks, ensuring that rising temperatures do not threaten this invaluable source of food as well as the jobs which support many in Cornwall.

Cornwall's response



How we live

As well as energy production, how we use energy in our daily lives will need to change. While renewable energy will eliminate some emissions, cutting down on how much energy we need in our homes will reduce the emissions which remain. This includes how much electricity we use and the way we heat our homes.

Case Study – Whole House Retrofit

The Whole House Retrofit innovation project has been developed to pilot improvements to 83 existing Council owned social housing homes to make them more energy efficient. Work will start on the first homes in November 2020, using innovative solutions to help reduce running costs by at least 20% and emissions by 80%.

Case Study – Smartline

Smartline is a ground-breaking research project looking at how technology can help us live healthier and happier lives. Around 300 Cornish homes took part, collecting data from sensors measuring air quality, humidity, temperature, water and energy use plus in-depth surveys to help understand people's wellbeing needs, aspirations and desires for their community.



The potential for Cornwall

If our emissions continue unchecked, it will become harder and harder to support lives which are healthy, safe and happy. A carbon neutral Cornwall will need to support all of us to become more efficient in the way we use energy, including heating and electricity. As the amount of renewable energy we produce increases, and the amount of energy we need to sustain ourselves reduces, we will become more resilient to shocks in the wider energy system.

With more efficient buildings and smarter electricity use, homes across Cornwall can reduce their emissions significantly, as well as becoming more reliable and more affordable for all. Zero carbon homes are becoming more and more cost-

effective, and will significantly reduce Cornwall's carbon footprint as well as safeguarding jobs in our construction sector and saving the average household over £600 per year.

A shared response

In the climate emergency we will all need to think more carefully about the way we use energy at home.

Cut down on energy use. Switching off lights and appliances, or do tasks differently to avoid energy use altogether, such as hanging washing out to dry instead of using a machine.

Reduce heating bills. Find ways to save emissions and money, by only heating certain rooms at certain times, or putting on a jumper instead of turning up the thermostat.

Cornwall's response

How we enhance our environment

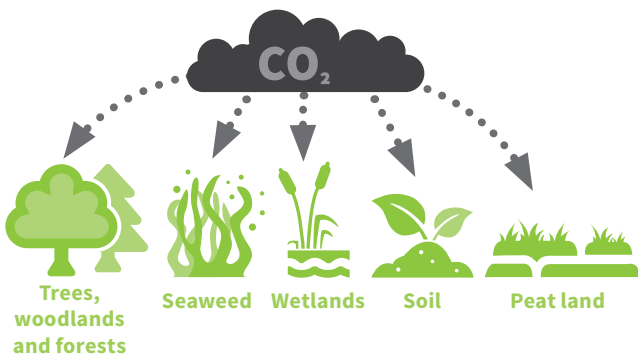
The Cornish landscape is world-renowned, and its impact is not only felt in how we travel across it or what we build on it, but also how we use the land and sea themselves. The way we manage our environment has a dramatic effect on the emissions we create, and while the negative consequences are severe, the potential is growing for ways to better work with our natural resources to help reduce and capture our emissions.

Case Study – Forest for Cornwall

The Forest for Cornwall is a programme to plant 8,000 hectares of new trees across multiple locations such as woods, parks, farmland, towns, villages and gardens over a decade. Once completed, it aims to extend canopy cover over an additional 2% of Cornwall's total land area and capture 38,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year, representing 1% of Cornwall's current greenhouse gas emissions. Residents, community groups, businesses and schools are all invited to get involved.

Case Study - St Austell Bay Resilient Regeneration Project (STARR)

The STARR project aims to reduce flood risk to communities living and working in the St Austell Bay area, particularly in Par and St Blazey. Through slowing the flow of river water, redesigning green spaces and working with local landowners, businesses and communities, the project will reduce the risk of hundreds of millions of pounds of damage caused by the increased chance of flooding in the climate emergency.



The potential for Cornwall

As well as trees, many other forms of environmental management can capture carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere, naturally reducing our emissions.

Cornwall is uniquely placed to pioneer projects like seaweed farming, with over 400 miles of coastline which could be used to grow kelp to capture and store carbon or produce food and fuel with a smaller carbon footprint.

Cornwall's farming communities have a huge part to play to help reduce and drawdown emissions from agriculture, building resilience and increasing

productivity to feed a growing population while becoming carbon neutral.

A shared response

Looking after our environment means that our environment can look after us. We can all play a part, whether at home, at work or in our communities.

Grow at home. Plant wildflowers and maintain environments which encourage pollinators such as bees to thrive.

Plant trees. Contribute to the Forest for Cornwall by becoming a volunteer, hosting a tree planting event or making a donation.

Cornwall's response

How we work



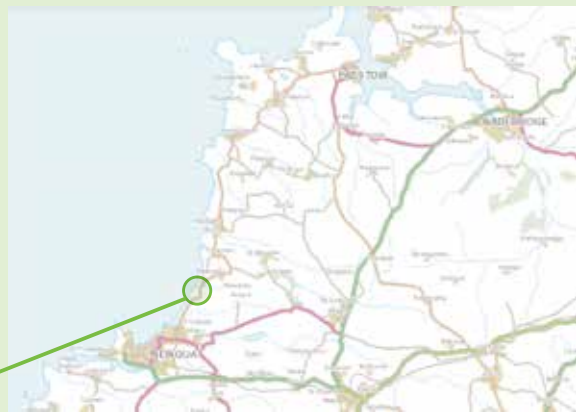
Businesses and other organisations account for over a fifth of Cornwall's carbon emissions. All places of work, from hospitals and schools to surf shops and cafes, will need to take action if we are to meet our targets. Environmental awareness amongst consumers is growing all the time, and Covid-19 has demonstrated that the way we work is vulnerable to change, not set in stone.

Case Study – Tevi

Tevi (Cornish for 'Grow') is a project to support small businesses to become more efficient with their natural resource use and to minimise their waste in smart and innovative ways as part of the global move towards a circular economy. The circular economy aims to maintain the value of materials and products for as long as possible, creating new value from products when they reach the end of their life, and reducing negative environmental impacts.

Case Study – Boardmasters Festival

Boardmasters Festival won the Cornwall Sustainability Awards in 2018 by engaging over 150,000 festival-goers, predominately young people, with the importance of protecting the natural environment. For example, the 2018 festival introduced a reusable cup scheme that avoided approximately 200,000 single-use cups from entering the waste stream, while a £10 Litter Bond initiative incentivised campers to bag and dispose of their litter correctly.



Businesses across Cornwall are already growing a world-renowned reputation for quality and positive environmental impact, from fashion and fishing to technology and tourism. As we become carbon neutral, all organisations will need to reduce their emissions and change the way they operate. This will include how they manage their buildings, the way their staff travel, the products they buy and how they produce and use energy.

A shared response

Businesses large and small can take action, and many reductions in how much carbon our organisations produce could also create substantial cost savings.

Calculate your carbon footprint. Use the Carbon Trust's free calculator to work out where you're starting from and what you can do to improve it.

Engage your team. Train staff in low carbon behaviours, encourage home working to reduce emissions from travelling, make sustainable choices about what you buy.

The potential for Cornwall

Part of the change towards a more fairer, thriving and resilient Cornwall will require the growth of environmentally and socially sustainable jobs, sectors and economies, building on Cornwall's strengths and potential. We will need to design and deliver low carbon investment and infrastructure, and make all possible efforts to create decent, fair and high value work, in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce and overall economy.

Cornwall's response

How we reduce waste

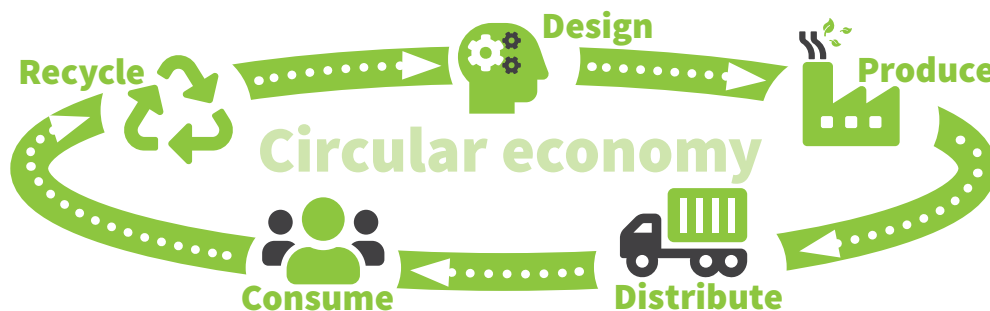
As with energy, we can reduce the impact of our waste in two ways. The most important change is to waste less, to remove the need to throw anything away. When creating waste is unavoidable, we can change what we do with it by reusing or recycling and work towards more circular use of resources in which we create less and reuse more.

Case Study – Food waste collections

From 2022 every household in Cornwall will receive weekly food waste collections, meaning that all unused food which is not composted at home can be collected and turned into compost and gases which can generate clean energy. Currently food waste makes up 35% of what we put in our black bins, so these new collections could have a huge impact on how much we can recycle. Separate collections will also help residents in Cornwall become more aware of and reduce their food waste which will save money as well as reducing emissions. According to WRAP, the average family wastes £700 of food every year.

Case Study – The Repair Café Network

Repair cafes not only challenge wasteful attitudes - preventing useable items from going to the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre - but they also help to build a healthy sense of community that allow us to learn and exchange new skills, build our resourcefulness and even make new friends. The Cornwall Repair Café Network supports Repair Cafes, including new groups and those that have been running for a while, where anyone can come along and fix items which might otherwise be thrown away.



The potential for Cornwall

In Cornwall we currently only recycle 38% of our waste. While the introduction of food waste collections will increase this, there is still huge potential for Cornwall to increase what we recycle and reduce what we throw away.

In a waste neutral Cornwall, everything that we use would be repurposed, to be reused or to create new products or produce energy. In this circular economy businesses and individuals will become more efficient with what they use and minimise their waste, making our resources last longer and reducing emissions at every stage of the supply chain.

A shared response

Refuse – Reject items which you think will have a negative impact on the planet, including single use plastic

Reduce – Don't buy more than you need, a good deal is still a waste of money and resources if it ends up in the bin

Reuse – Save money by fixing what you already have, take items to a Repair Café or exchange unwanted outfits at a clothes swap

Recycle – Make sure you know what can be recycled in Cornwall, in your fortnightly collections and at Household Waste Recycling Centres and supermarkets.

Next steps

A call for imagination

This is the start of the journey; a commitment to deliver what is possible through direct action; a commitment to work and engage with others across systems to co-design solutions to the complex challenges of the climate emergency. It also highlights that there are many difficult decisions ahead as we reimagine and redesign how we live in Cornwall together through unprecedented times.

While we can take great strides towards reducing the long-term potential impacts of a changing climate, some change is inevitable. Flooding and coastal erosion will increase, along with more unpredictable changes which will affect us all. Local communities will need to become more resilient to face these changes, and we will need to make the most of the significant natural resources and human ingenuity we have across Cornwall.

All of the changes mentioned in this document will need to happen if we are to reduce the impact of the climate emergency and create a Cornwall that is fair, thriving and resilient for all. But we will need to make other changes, too. Changes which we don't yet understand and can't yet plan for. While the climate will continue to change, so too must our

collective imagination as we discover new ways to reach our goal. We all have a part to play, and the ideas listed here should not limit what else is possible. Individually, we all have something to offer and a unique perspective which will be crucial if we are to think differently and meet these challenges head on. Together, we have real power to make practical changes at a huge scale.

“ The challenge sits with every single one of us to think differently, to unlock our imagination and ask ourselves **what do we want Cornwall to be?** ”



Discover more – read about the climate emergency, find out what is already happening near you



Share your ideas – be part of the growing movement to shape how can Cornwall respond to the climate emergency, find new opportunities or great ideas happening elsewhere



Start a conversation – share this document, talk about it with friends and family, find out what different people think and what new perspectives they can bring



Join with others – start or join a local Climate Action Group, talk to your local businesses, share your energy, ideas and power to make an even bigger difference

For more information on what Cornwall Council has proposed, and the details behind where we are now and where we need to be, the full Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action Plan can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/climatechange

Visit The Hive to find out how you can help Cornwall become carbon neutral, what other people are doing, and share your ideas: letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall

**Tell us what action you are taking,
and share your vision for Cornwall's future.**