

# ***Bishop's Castle Climate & Nature Action Plan 2024-2025***

***Bishop's Castle Town Council in partnership with  
Light Foot's Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group  
and supported by South Shropshire Climate Action***

[www.https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk](https://bishopscaletowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/](https://lightfootenterprises.org/climate-action-group/)  
[e-mail: climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org](mailto:climateaction@lightfootenterprises.org)



**BISHOP'S CASTLE  
CLIMATE ACTION GROUP**

lightfoot  
enterprises

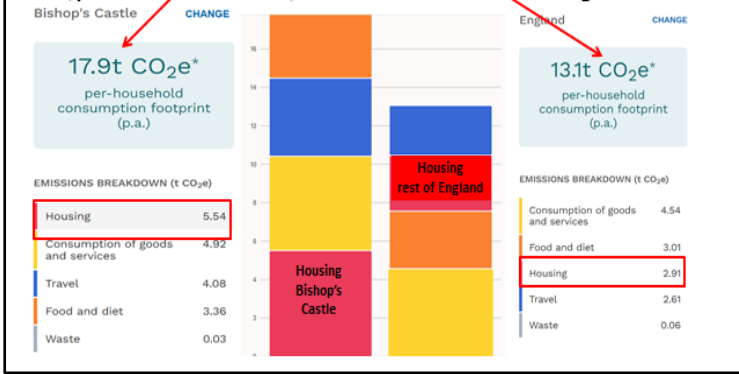


**South  
Shropshire  
CLIMATE  
ACTION**



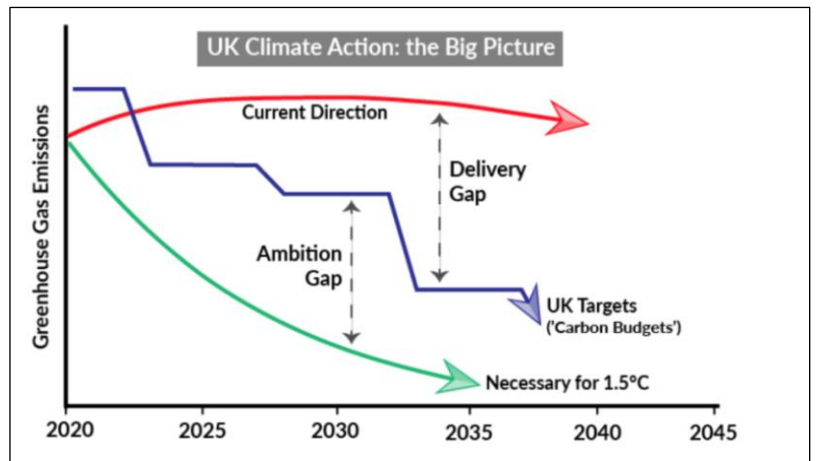
**Bishop's Castle Town Council**

# BISHOP'S CASTLE HAS MORE EMISSIONS (per household) than the rest of England.



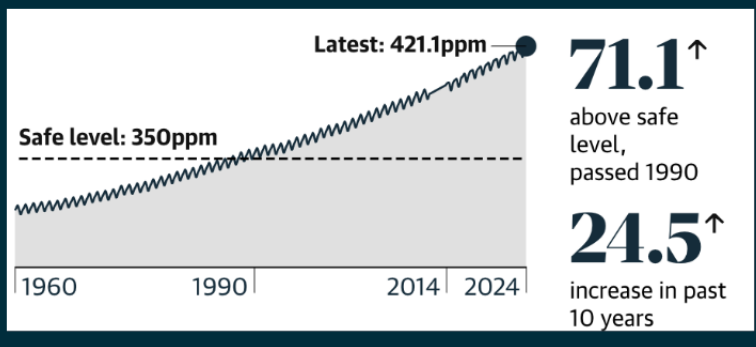
## Bishop's Castle Carbon Footprint 2022

Based on 2023 Figures

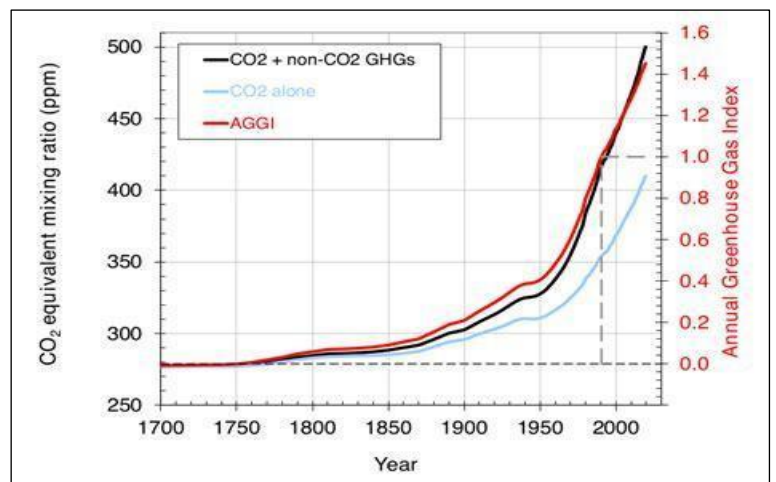


## Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in parts per million, 30 January 2024

Source: NOAA



## 300-years of Growth of Green-house gases emissions



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### Record of Changes

Record of Changes	
September 2019	BC Town Council Declare a Climate Emergency
April 2020	BC Climate Action Plan version 1
December 2021	BC Climate Action Plan version 2 (Chapter 8: Transport added)
May 2022	Sustainability Working Group changed to Climate Action Group [CAG]
February 2023	Draft CAP 2023 version 1 issued for review
March 2023	Updated draft version 2 issued
15 August 2023	Town Council approved version 2 with one update
16 August 2023	BC CAP version 2.1 & Final issued containing update
January 24	Draft CAP 2024-25 (update of Part 1)

## MAYOR’S FOREWORD

As you will see from the ‘Record of Achievements’ in this document, there’s been a lot of progress since the Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. With our partner, Light Foot’s BC Climate Action Group, we have ambitious environmental and nature objectives for our small Town, which includes: reducing the Town’s high carbon footprint with one of the only wind-turbine-powered *Community Heat Networks* in UK; helping deliver the Government’s recently introduced Nature Recovery requirement by ‘greening’ the Town through the ‘*Going Wild in BC*’ project - which has been running for 3 years and is such a success that other Parishes want to share its ‘tool-kit’, and continuing the *Food Forward’s* Food Strategy and Action Plan, the first Town in Shropshire to have tackled such an important subject.

It’s not possible to mention all the other good things that are happening, as this Plan shows. If you look at the graphics on the next page, you might feel we’re trying to run upwards on the down escalator, but good things are happening, and there’s lots of other initiatives that we would like to get underway for which the Climate Action Group is in need of more ‘pairs of hands’. You don’t need any particular skills, just a willingness to roll-up your sleeves and join-in. So, please, get in touch with them and give it a go.

Josh Dickins  
February 2024

## INTRODUCTION & ACCOUNTABILITY

This is an update of Part 1 of the 2023 Climate Action Plan for 2024 – 2025. Part 2 will be reviewed and updated separately later in the year.

The actions outlined here in the *Bishop's Castle Climate & Nature Action Plan* [CAP] are a shared responsibility of the Bishop's Castle Town Council and the Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group [BC CAG]. This is an active partnership dedicated to the betterment of our Community and the recognition of our collective role in addressing the Climate & Nature Emergency. The actions of the CAP are further supported by individual community members doing their part.

Regular meetings are led by the BC CAG on approximately a monthly basis. One or more Councillors sit on this group as pivot members who communicate between the Town Council and the group. As a way of maintaining transparency, clear communication and accountability, a standing 'Climate and Environment' item is to be listed on the monthly agenda for the Town Council to address actions from the CAP, and a quarterly update drawn-up by the CAG is to be presented by the pivot Councillor feeding back on the actions and activities undertaken. Community members of the CAG will periodically attend council meetings as members of the public to address the CAP and to provide greater context for specific actions or items.

The CAP is reviewed and updated annually by the BC CAG to identify actions that have been successfully completed or are in need of further attention. This review is then shared with the Town Council so that objectives and actions can remain on target as the phases of the Plan move forward.

This document links specific actions to the organisation best suited to carry it out. By working in partnership on this initiative, incremental progress will add up to have a greater impact for Bishop's Castle, and beyond.

## TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

Actions 1 – 18 with the first 10 based on the questionnaire the Councillors completed in 2023

TOWN COUNCIL – YEAR 1 ACTIONS				
No.	Action	Years	Status	Progress & Evidence
1	Publicise BCTC's [Bishop's Castle Town Council] commitment to mitigating climate change, and add 'Climate & Environment' as a standard Agenda item.	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 completed, remains on-going for Years 2 & 3 <u>Evidence:</u> Carbon Footprint audit, sponsoring 'Going Wild' and Environment Festival
2	Create a climate emergency page on the BCTC website;	1	✓	Year 1 Completed. <u>Evidence:</u> Link to Light Foot website inserted on Town Council's website.
3	Encourage litter picking & review litter bin locations and types	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 completed. Remains on-going for Years 2 & 3 <u>Evidence:</u> Presence of a litter picking group
4	Undertake a Carbon Footprint Audit on all Council activities. Annual review to identify reductions. Put report on Council web site.	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 completed. To be updated August 2024. See here for Scope <sup>i</sup> <u>Evidence:</u> Ideally, report posted on Council website
5	Hold paperless Council meetings	1,2,3	✓	Done –where possible. Monitor for years 2 & 3 <u>Evidence:</u> Electronic devices used for council meetings
6	Encourage a long-term approach to tree planting and identification for bulk planting	2,3		Year 1, Agreed that two Charter Oaks are to be planted in Playing Fields <u>Evidence:</u> Photo of trees to be taken & put on website
7	Report quarterly against the plan	1,2,3,	✓	Year 1 Reports submitted in October & January. Final Report in April 24. <u>Evidence:</u> Reports on Light Foot [& Town Council's website?] and referenced in Town Council's Minutes
8	Add climate emergency references to all new contract specifications and tenders and include in evaluation process	2		<u>Evidence:</u> Produce draft of a standard statement for inclusion in contracts stating that it will form part of the evaluation process.
9	Town Council to ensure its electricity supplier is 100% renewable;	2		Year 1: Started – Oct 23 <u>Evidence:</u> Publish name of supplier
10	Encourage contractors to have 'zero to landfill' policies	3		Produce draft of question to be issued to all contractors <u>Evidence:</u> Record responses from contractors in TC's Minutes.

**TOWN COUNCIL – YEAR 1 ACTIONS**

No.	Action	Years	Status	Progress & Evidence
11	Ensure use of peat-free compost	1,2,3		Allotments made aware – Oct 23. Explore further opportunities, e.g planters and Council land. <u>Evidence:</u> Feedback to be sought from TC’s new Environment & Nature Agenda item
12	Investigate the requirements of emergency planning for extreme events	3		Explore Shropshire Council Emergency Planning. Identify our concerns, e.g. extreme winter conditions, flooding, power cuts, etc. <u>Evidence:</u> Draft mitigation plan
13	BCTC will commission CAG to undertake an annual Town carbon footprint and to propose targets for the Town to reduce its collective carbon emissions. One action from the ‘Personal Actions’ list to be included in each Town Newsletter.	1,2,3		<u>Evidence:</u> CAG Report and Newsletter Actions.
14	BCTC will press for changes to ensure that all planning applications (e.g. housing, transport, sewage) are amended to minimise carbon emissions and other impacts on the environment/climate 2024 – CAG to produce for councillors a tick list to be used when considering such applications	1,2,3		<u>Evidence:</u> Agreed Tick-list. Recorded in Planning Application discussions in Town Council’s Minutes  Note: Tick-list to reference Bio-diversity Net Gain Legislation in which developments must result in a better quality natural habitat than there was before the development took place (but not necessarily in the same place)
15	BCTC will track Shropshire Council’s climate actions to adopt where appropriate	2		<u>Evidence:</u> Add new ideas to Quarterly Reports to Town Council
16	BCTC will encourage Shropshire Council to seek funding from the ‘ <i>Marches Forward Partnership</i> ’ to assist with making transformative changes to ameliorate climate and nature breakdown.	2		A new coalition of Monmouthshire, Powys, Herefordshire & Shropshire Councils. <u>Evidence:</u>

**TOWN COUNCIL – YEAR 1 ACTIONS**

No.	Action	Years	Status	Progress & Evidence
17	BCTC will ensure its Contractors stop using neonicotinoid pesticides (e.g 'Round-up' & 'Glyphosate') and press Shropshire Council to also stop using them to ameliorate insect species loss.	2		<u>Evidence:</u> TC approval to be recorded in TC's Meeting Minutes
18	BCTC will support the CAG's objective of community land acquisition to use for wellbeing, Nature Recovery and 'Right to Grow' purposes	Year 3		Evidence: Consideration by TC of any suggestions put forward.

## CLIMATE ACTION GROUP ACTIONS

GENERAL ACTIVITIES & ON-GOING PROJECTS				
No.	Action	Year	Status	Progress & Evidence
1	Continuously monitor & update CAP	2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Update for 24-25 completed
2	Explore means of progress CAP Part 2 Actions when resources allow	2,3		<u>Evidence:</u> Assess when undertaking review & update of Part 2
3	Continue delivering the 'Going Wild in BC' project's Stage 2	2	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Continued involvement of the community and publicity of activities.
4	Continue progressing the 'Community Heat Network'	2	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Continued publicity and public meetings, surveys of 'expressions of interest'.
5	Seek funding for Heat Network Household Energy Surveys	2	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> If successful, re-publicise survey opportunities
6	Maintain BC Freegle	2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Continue on-line mediation of posts. (Now in Year 11)
7	Organize and run an 'Environment Day'	1,2,3	✓	<u>Evidence:</u> Year 1 delivered. Year 2 planned to address all aspects of waste (cf. Festival of Thrift).
8	Explore Citizens' Jury on Climate & Bio-diversity	3		Awaiting TC's instructions <u>Evidence:</u> Outcome of Jury discussion
9	Explore community land acquisition for wellbeing, Nature Recovery and 'Right to Grow' purposes	2,3		<u>Evidence:</u> Publication of opportunities



No.	Action	Year	Status	Progress & Evidence
<b>CARBON FOOTPRINT</b>				
10	Carry-out an annual carbon footprint of the Town and propose means of reduction for the TC. (TC Action 13)	1,2,3	✓	Year 1 measurement completed. <u>Evidence</u> : Report is on Light Foot's website
<b>FOOD FORWARD</b>				
11	To proactively build up the community's food resilience by establishing a <i>Local Food Council</i> [LFC]			Started. <u>Evidence</u> : Town Council adoption of 'Food Forward BC' – the first food policy council in Shropshire
12	Explore community growing initiatives including education and training for growing at home			Set up Food Forward BC on Social Media with tips/info. More ongoing via 'Right to Grow' movement with Shropshire Good Food Partnership <u>Evidence</u> : Regular social media postings
13	Reduce or re-use surplus food			In progress – Working with Shrewsbury Food Hub for 'Taste with no Waste' training programme. <u>Evidence</u> :
14	Encourage and support more home-growing			In progress - Advice through Community Seed bank and Food Forward social media. Ongoing. <u>Evidence</u> :
15	Set-up a Community Composting facility			Site with access control needed and resources to manage it. Attempting to build links with Community College regarding Rodan composter.
16	Continue to support the <i>BC Food Bank</i>			Building Social Media links through food forward to encourage donations.

## RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Light Foot's Household Energy Surveys;
2. Bishop's Castle 'Fight the Plastic' campaign (first town in Shropshire to receive an SAS award);
3. Town Council announcement of a Climate Emergency;
4. Production of a Climate Action Plan in 2022, adopted by Town Council in 2023;
5. Town Council's funding of the 'Going Wild in BC' initiative;
6. The opening of *Walter's Workshop*, a Repair Café in Enterprise House;
7. Purchase of the 'Stars' newsagents by BC CLT to serve as a *Community Hub* and affordable housing when refurbished;
8. Installations of *Electric Vehicle Charging Points* in Harley Jenkins St car park;
9. BC Community Seed Bank stall at Farmers' Market (now in its third year);
10. Production of a *Local Food Strategy* and Action Plan and food policy council (*Food Forward BC*) (firsts by any Council in the county), with associated media attention and press releases. Webinar to Shropshire Councillors, NALC presentation on Food Strategy and Climate Action links, and Conference talk delivered by Daphne via SGFP on these.
11. Recycling of IT equipment initiative at Enterprise House;
12. Opening of *Walter's Workshop* Repair Café;
13. Bishop's Castle *Freegle* site continuing help in re-cycling surplus items (11<sup>th</sup> year);
14. BC's Parish Path's Partnership on-going repair and maintenance of our local footpaths
15. CAG's input to the draft Neighbourhood Plan & response to its Community Consultation;
16. The Town Council's commitment to mitigating climate change and support of climate activities;
17. Link to Light Foot Enterprises's Climate Action page from Town Council website;
18. Establishment of social media for Light Foot, covering the CAG projects;
19. Litter picking encouraged by Town Council;
20. Carbon Footprint audit undertaken of Town Council's activities for Year 1;
21. Town Council introducing paperless Council meetings – where possible;
22. Quarterly Climate Action progress reports delivered to Town Council;
23. Bishop's Castle annual carbon footprint calculated for Year 1;
24. Food Forward Strategy & Action Plan produced and adopted by Town Council;
25. Community Heat & Wind project included in Bishop's Castle's Place Plan enabling a funding application for work to begin towards a full planning application;
26. E-mail sent from Town Council to Shropshire Council encouraging pension disinvestment in fossil fuels funds;
27. BC Environment Fair organised by CAG in 2023;
28. Going Wild in BC submission to National Heritage Lottery Fund for phase 2 funding;
29. Third season of 'Going Wild in BC' winter talks, with further planned for 24/25;
30. Summer Activities Workshop for young people held in 2023;
31. Monthly Kids' Club run from Autumn 23 to Easter 24 (funded by Connexus and through funds raised by 6 Bells Quiz, Apple-Pressing at Little Woodbatch, and Christmas Ceilidh);
32. 'Going Wild in BC' Charter Oaks initiative;
33. Attempt to set-up Car-Sharing scheme failed through insufficient people interested;

## SOME USEFUL LINKS

### Food

<https://www.shropshiregoodfood.org/>

[GOOD FOOD MAP | SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD](#)

Healthy Cooking Toolkit: <https://goodfoodoxford.org/toolkits/>

Community Seed Bank: [Little Woodbatch Market Garden](#)

[Bishop's Castle Community Foodbank \(bishopscastlefoodbank.org.uk\)](#)

### Energy

<https://lightfootenterprises.org/carbon-calculator/>

[Compare Green Energy Suppliers \(simplyswitch.com\)](#)

[Energy Advice at Home – Marches Energy Agency \(mea.org.uk\)](#)

### Waste

[Consumption & Resources | Zero Carbon Shropshire](#)

[How can we reduce our Fashion Environmental Impact — SustainYourStyle](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/waltersbcworkshop>

[Festival of Thrift - Come & Celebrate Sustainable Living](#)

### Climate

[Home | South Shropshire Climate Action](#)

[Zero Carbon Shropshire |](#)

[Home - Lightfoot Enterprises](#)

[Better Future - Save Our Shropshire Better Future](#)

[Climate change explained for children: Eight questions on airplanes, snow, animals, and forests \(lemonde.fr\)](#)

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## <sup>i</sup> SCOPE OF TOWN COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT

<sup>i</sup> Scope 1 is direct emissions, which means any emissions that come as a direct result of us burning a fuel such as oil, gas, or petrol, e.g:-

- Any vehicles or machinery owned by town council
- Whether the town council burns any liquid or gaseous fuels for heating etc.

Scope 2 is indirect emissions, such as emissions produced when our electricity was generated in a power station.

- Buildings owned by town council
- Utilities supplied to town council Land owned by town council
- Other council owned assets e.g street lighting

Scope 3 is emissions from areas where we can't have full control. (This will identify where we may consider switching to other Service Providers who have reduced their own Scope 1 & 2 emissions.)

- Services commissioned by town council
- The banks in which town funds are stored