

We will work to reduce the CO2 emissions from Council owned buildings.

- **In 2011, we launched our ‘Green Office Project’, Within fifteen months:**
 - We reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill from the District Council Office by 75%. This led to a saving of around £2500 in waste disposal costs and generated more than £4000 in income from the sales of used paper.
 - We Increased paper recycling by approx. 94%
 - We composted 23.372 tonnes of food/card
 - We recycled 1224kg of plastics/cartons, 1672kg glass and 236kg cans.
 - We were recognised by the Public Sector Sustainability (PSS) Awards 2012 with an award in the Green Office category under the ‘*most sustainable public sector project*’.
 - Purchase of energy from renewable sources – the Council have signed up using a green electrical supplier
- **In 2018, we made improvements to our internal waste management system:**
 - We redesigned our recycling bins and revised the labelling to reduce the amount of contamination in recycling bins.
 - We removed single use plastic water cups from our water fountains, replacing them with glasses and ceramic mugs, and encouraged staff to use their own water bottles and travel mugs where possible.
 - Made food recycling available in our offices.

We will work to reduce CO2 emissions in North Hertfordshire as a whole.

- We made improvement to our waste collection services to help residents and businesses increase recycling and reducing waste.
 - We introduced kerb side collections of mixed recyclables, batteries, textiles, paper, and garden waste.
 - We implemented a separate food waste collection system to encourage the diversion of food waste from landfill.
 - We provided mixed recycling services to businesses, and improved our commercial waste services
 - We joined the WasteAware Hertfordshire partnership, and have worked with the county, and the district and borough councils to promote waste and recycling education and campaigns, providing useful tips to help community members become waste aware.
 - We supported the Real Nappy Initiative to encourage residents to use reusable nappies over disposable, and have facilitated the rollout of the Real Nappy Starter Kit and the Nappy Incentive Scheme
- **We awarded community grants to local organisations that address Climate Change.**

- In 2018/19, Letchworth Transition Towns received funding for their Plastic Free Letchworth campaign.
- In 2017/18, we awarded St Pauls Walden Litter Picking Scheme with funding to purchase litter pickers for village clean up days.
- In 2016/17, Kimpton Parish Council received funding to support the purchase of litter pickers.
- In 2015/16, we awarded Clean Up Hitchin with funding for their litter campaign; Great Ashby Community Gardening Project also received for funding for their community gardening initiative
- **We passed two motions with the aim of encouraging residents, businesses and Council staffs to reduce, reuse and correctly recycle plastics.**
 - The first motion passed declared the Council's support of the principle of an initiative entitled "Plastic Free Letchworth", which is committed to supporting plastic free alternatives. This pilot project has now been extended to the rest of the district.
 - The second motion passed declared the Council's commitment to minimising its own use of plastics and to eliminate the use of single use plastics and replace with sustainable alternatives by 2022. It also requested that all of the Council's suppliers and contractors to remove single use plastics from their products and packaging as soon as possible.
- **We have installed several new drinking fountains at:**
 - Avenue Park, Baldock
 - Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston
 - Bancroft Park, Hitchin
 - Hitchin Outdoor Swimming Pool
 - Letchworth Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Reduction in our estates emissions
 - In 2014 our energy rating of the District Council office was 97 and emissions peaked at 292 CO2 tonnes per year. In 2019 our energy rating was 52 and emissions were 121 respectively.

We will work to ensure the Council plans to adapt to climate change.

- We have instituted a Cabinet Panel on Climate Change. The Panel's Terms of Reference are to consider a range of climate and environmental issues and in particular to:
 - Engage with individuals and the community, act as a sounding board on community ideas and projects and seek evidence and views as appropriate;
 - Consider a range of views on issues relating to climate change (both mitigation of and adaption to) and environmental matters;
 - Help and where appropriate maintain any links with relevant external (public, research and industrial) bodies;
 - Consider any relevant government or agency consultations and advise Cabinet or the relevant Executive Member and Service Director of a proposed response;

- Contribute towards the review of the Climate Change Strategy
 - Act as an advisory Panel to Cabinet in relation to the above.
- Climate Change risks, are recorded on the Council's Risk Register via Pentana Performance, an integrated suite of corporate performance and risk management software.
- Service managers within the council have carried out risk assessments to consider climate change and how they may continue to provide services to residents throughout such situations. Managers preparing the Business Continuity Plans do so while mindful of Climate Change.
- We have a comprehensive programme of tree management and maintenance in place to endeavour to adapt to climate change.
- Wild flower planting on roundabouts is part of a new district wide approach that is more sustainable also reducing the need for watering.
- We will be re-using waste water from the Avenue Park Water Splash feature to irrigate the bowling green and cricket pitch and potentially, nearby flower beds.
- Replacing our obsolete office computers with up to date desk tops to reduce our energy consumption. We are constantly reviewing all new procurements to ensure they are energy efficient and have better power energy ratings than the older equipment we are refreshing.
- *New ICT server virtualisation, voltage optimisation and network switch replacement generating c67% energy consumption savings*.
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We continue to support sustainable planning projects.

- NHDC Planning Officers have attended training sessions to reinforce knowledge on Climate Change issues and the information will be used to help inform our planning policies. The new Local Plan for the District will include planning policies which will help to address climate change issues, for example by including policies on the standards of design or renewable energy developments.
- Development control planners continue to negotiate with developers where possible to seek higher codes for sustainable homes, for example, the recent development at Cade Close, Letchworth for 60 homes has been constructed to code level 4 for sustainable homes following negotiations with the planning department. As the policy position strengthens it is likely that more developments will achieve these standards across the District.
- Our 'planning advice' page on the NHDC website includes a link to provide guidance for householders who are looking for advice relating to planning and building regulation matters for green energy projects and energy saving.