



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

Working Document updated 17/07/2024

Strategy Action Plan – Alton Town Council will reduce its own carbon footprint to aim to achieve carbon neutral by 2030.

Line Update	Action	Objective	Detailed Actions			Budget	Method of Evaluation	Status
			Action	By	Date			
1.1 DH	Regular green audit of the entirety of the Town Council's land, buildings and assets.	To measure ATC's progress towards the carbon neutral target.	1. Check and recalculate the Baseline 2. Calculate 2024 consumption to compare 3. Obtain consumption figures from tenants in Baseline Properties	DH DH Asst Clerk	24/7/24 24/7/24 17/7/24	Officer hours	The calculation will be based on the Report produced by Expert Energy.	The Assistant Clerk is logging all fuel and energy consumption every month so year on year comparisons can be made. DH has prepared a spreadsheet to be populated when all data is available.
1.2 JBH	Reducing fuel emissions from ATC estate and operations	To reduce the council's carbon footprint toward the carbon neutral target of 2030	Consider replacement of diesel vehicles with electric. Consider replacement of petrol engine tools with electric	DH JBH		Officer hours	Annual year on year comparison of energy consumption.	The Assistant Clerk is logging all fuel consumption every month so year on year comparisons can be made. Grounds Team has been evaluating efficiencies through rationalising cutting regimes etc Report prepared by Chris Chappell January 24 and an update in May 24 for committee consideration.



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

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								Note: HVO deemed environmentally unacceptable by the European Environment Agency (EEA)
1.3 SM & DH	Reducing energy consumption in ATC properties.	To reduce the council's carbon footprint toward the carbon neutral target of 2030	Encourage energy-saving behaviours Upgrade to LED lighting	DH SM			Annual year on year comparison of energy consumption.	Installation of solar lighting where appropriate. Upgrading current town council owned lighting & floodlighting stock to LED where viable to reduce energy consumption. Reduce temperatures in public buildings. Install behaviour change signage on light switches & heating dials. Reduction of office paper use. Heating oil and Gas consumption at the Assembly Rooms has dropped, Town Hall and Finnimore Pavilion use lower than before 2020
1.4 SM & DH	Retrofit existing council-owned properties	To achieve Energy Performance Certificate C or higher wherever possible. This should include fitting eco-heating and developing heat networks where appropriate	Follow up double glazing estimates for Town Hall shops as they seem to be much less than the	DH SM			EPC certificates.	Aspiration over all properties and systems 3 – 5 years. Significant cost to upgrading existing oil fired heating & gas systems. Investigated with EHDC's Conservation Officer Nov '23 who agreed to using (secondary glazing?) for Town Hall windows.



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AIM 1

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			secondary glazing quote.					Grant applied for, quotes obtained. Town Hall Shops - double glazing agreed in principle with Conservation Officer at EHDC grant and quotes obtained.
1.5 DH MK	Promoting optimum energy efficiency in refurbished Jubilee Fields pavilions.	To reduce the council's carbon footprint toward the carbon neutral target of 2030 Through using best practice, demonstrate ATC's commitment to fighting climate change. Provide a model for similar projects.		SM DH MK		£288,000 in budget	Certification from the Carbon Trust (or sector equivalent) of carbon neutrality	Pavilions will be refurbished not replaced. Budget set aside for updating both pavilions at Jubilee Fields. Planning permission and grant funding required. Scope of works has been drafted. Refurbishment plans to include ensuring all energy saving options are explored and implemented.
1.6 SM	Explore the renewable energy sources which could operate within ATC's premises; considering the community energy scheme	To reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's estate, through use of solar, wind etc..		SM DH			As 1.3	Feasibility study required for suitable locations, ascertain costs – longer term objective. A pilot at the Energique building was discussed with Solar PV being fitted.



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1.7 JT	Continue to install additional tree Planting and Hedgerows on public open spaces; creation of more wildflower and wilderness areas	To help reduce the carbon footprint of our open spaces through the installation of pollutant absorbing hedgerows along entrances into the town and encouraging more spaces for wildlife to grow and thrive		JT MK ATC staff			Increased trees and hedgerows in open spaces and more wildflower planting	. Members to sign up as a Woodland Trust Tree Charter Branch in 2020. On-going dialogue with local groups and schools over tree planting projects (particularly fruit trees). 70 additional fruit trees planted as part of the Queen's Canopy initiative. Hedging at Will Hall Meadow and Greenfields planted with ACAN. Windflower verges at Butts Road created with ACAN. See recent notes of ATC mtg by C Chappell (22/01/2024) with list of hedges and trees planted in past 5 years and plans for more planting this year. Plus quantifiable data of carbon storage per tree. 2024 Present action plans2 sites. Anstey park a hedge inside railings parallel to London Road.Jubilee Fields trees next to



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								skate park and 2 benches along the north side path
1.8	Put in place EV charging - at council owned locations	To encourage the take up of electric vehicles (residents, visitor and staff) and to provide free to use, accessible charging points for emergency use.					Take up/usage	Audit of ATC owned buildings has identified locations for charging sockets at Anstey Park, Jubilee Fields, The Public Gardens and Market Square. External sockets have been installed on all identified properties. Lobby EHDC Parking for increased discount for season ticket permits for electric vehicles.
1.9 CC & BT	Improving accessibility to walking and Cycling routes, through clear mapping, signage, and publicity.	To encourage a wider demographic to walk into town as well as providing safe, increased permeability on routes for those with mobility issues, wheelchairs, push chairs and buggies, particularly to enable easy access to public transport, including	ATC / HCC, Ramblers, Walk Alton and volunteers Cycle Alton LCWIP	CC BT EHD C			Increased number of participants in the organised walks; uptake of self-guided walking tours leaflets/web stats.	Station Forecourt scheme pending funding approval. Project completed Walking and Cycling Technical document for priority improvements to the network commissioned by EHDC reviewed by Steering Group prior to public consultation



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

Working Document updated 17/07/2024

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		additional seating on routes.						
1.10 CC & BT	Increase areas for secure cycle parking and introduction of Cycle Pod Repair Stations in Public Open Spaces/along cycle routes	To provide more locations where cycles can be securely stored whilst in town or on public open spaces and enable run-in repairs to be undertaken where needed		CC BT EHD C			Increased use of bicycles in and around town, through surveys and anecdotal evidence	First Cycle Pod to be installed at Jubilee Fields by National Cycle Route 23 and new skate park February 2020. Two further Cycle Pods Repair Stations have been installed at Market Square and the new Pump Track CIL application made by HCC for Active Travel Hub at Alton Station.
1.11 BT	Provide start up assistance for environmentally sustainable retail or social enterprise initiatives in the High Street. Support for existing shops who wish to be more sustainable.	To reduce the number of vacant units on the High Street, encourage behaviour change, embracing shop local, rather than driving out of town and increasing footfall in the centre of town.					Number of vacant units decreases; new initiatives take shape.	Support already given to the launch of the Repair Café, Community Cupboard & Refill Alton in 2019. The Craft Emporium launched in 2020 enabled potential shop owners to have space on the Market Square. Two retailers have since taken units in the town.



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

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1.12 CC & BT	Promotion of electric car use	To lower emissions of our roads for those who are unable to access public transport.	ATC/ EHDC/ ACAN			Officer Hours	Increased number of electric cars and decreasing numbers of diesel cars on the local road network	Promotion of Electric cars at Eco-Fair, Classic Car Rally and other high footfall local events.
1.13 WS	Provide e-bike hire available at Alton town hall and bookable through ATC.	To enable residents to try out e-bikes for active travel.	ATC			Officer hours.	Number of residents hiring the e-bike and feedback. Number who subsequently purchase an e-bike	E-bike scheme launched in June 2022 to allow residents to borrow an electric bike for 10 days.

Strategy Action Plan – AIM 2 Updated by Jenny Griffiths ACAN 28.6.24

Alton Town Council will continue to work alongside community groups such as ACAN, Energy Alton, to provide opportunities for residents, schools and businesses to take action to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

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2.1	Installation of wayfinding in key locations across the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists	To assist visitors on foot and travelling by bicycle in navigating around the High Street to make the town centre easier to access from Alton Station or via public transport.	ATC, facilitated by HCC/EHDC where consent for installation is required.			Up to £60,000	Survey data	Survey carried out October 2019 with a specialist surveyor to undertake a comprehensive survey with recommended actions (for pedestrian wayfinding NOT cycle) . Survey costed at £4,000 and an application made as part of the place making project to release S106 to pay for 75% of the survey cost with the remainder being met by ATC approved tourism budget.
2.2	Promotion and support of community led creative solutions to reduce waste, promote an exchange economy, and buy less new “stuff”	To support behaviour change, encourage residents to “buy less stuff” and heighten awareness about recycling, repurposing and upcycling	ACAN and ATC to continue to promote the Repair Cafe, Community Share, and Community Cupboard, and use of charity shops	Ongoing		£10,000	Numbers of people using “green” community schemes, estimation of reduction of CO2 emissions as a result	Promotion of the Repair Café, Community Share and Community Cupboard by all. Rod Painell ACAN asked Repair Cafe, Community Share and Community Cupboard for CO2 and usage stats. June 2024. Discuss possible funding options for ACAN Eco-Streets (community outreach) project when it finishes at the end of October 2024. .
2.3	Replacement of traditional “In Bloom” schemes	Create a welcoming, colourful High Street to welcome visitors as they	Emily Messenger officer lead.			£10,000 per annum	Public response and anecdotal evidence	Seasonal planting extended to all year-round perennial planting to reduce watering and help absorb



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AIM 1

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	with environmentally sustainable alternatives around the town.	come into town whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the displays and creating sustainable alternatives to annual bedding plants.	ATC Grounds staff and contractors					pollutants. Proposal to replace the colourful schemes with banners to brighten up the street scene without the need for the use of electricity or water. Introduction of “incredible edible” planting around the town using fruit and vegetables in place of traditional schemes. Introduction of wildlife and wilderness categories to In Bloom from 2020. Polytunnel facility created to allow plants to be grown from seed and cutting taken each year.
2.4	Hosting of community events designed to influence behavioural change of residents and to attract new audiences to better understand their environment	To inspire many more people to take action in an inclusive, encouraging way, advocating cost effective, easy solutions to redress current consumption habits.	ATC working with ACAN and Energy Alton			£2,000	Public consultations and feedback to gauge public opinion and evaluate behaviour change.	ATC-ACAN Eco-Fairs held in 2021 and 2023. Decision to be taken on whether Eco-Fair feasible in 2025 - ACAN needs organisational capacity. Energy Alton Green Homes Fair held on 29 June 2024. Bio Blitzes continues to form part of the events calendar in Alton.



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

Working Document updated 17/07/2024

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								ACAN to continue to have stalls at ATC and other community events if possible.
2.5	Creation of a sustainability centre / hub for climate change projects and information	To give local people a fixed location as well as on-line methods of engaging to become more informed and find resources to help them on their own journey to live more sustainably.	ACAN/EA working with ATC to secure venue			£10,000	Creation of Hub, number of visitors/ footfall. Subsequent behaviour change.	Energy Advice Cafe and subsequent Eco-Cafe in 16 Market Square from autumn 2022 to March 2024. Closed due to poor footfall - wrong location. Continue to investigate opportunities for a High Street location.
2.6	Reduce the purchase of water in disposable plastic water bottles and ensure the availability of tap water especially in heatwaves	To reduce plastic waste	New action: improve signage at existing water fountains					Action has previously been taken (joining the Refill Campaign and drinking tap at Jubilee Fields). Improved signage to be discussed
2.7	"NEW" Support climate and nature action by young people	It is <i>their</i> future! Young people are very concerned about climate change and the need to restore nature	Young ACAN and ATC. Young ACAN works with most local schools in a Partnership. Also a group				Feedback from schools and Alton College, and Young ACAN Ambassadors.	Ask Climate Committee member Erdogan for his ideas. ACAN lead is Emma Jones. Schools Eco-conference held on 1 July - 100 children, focused on plastic waste "From Me to the Sea".



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

Working Document updated 17/07/2024

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			of Young ACAN Ambassadors					ACAN funding from Transition Network will support recycling and reuse initiatives in schools in autumn 2024.
2.8	Promotion of the work undertaken by Energy Alton	To help residents in the retrofitting of existing homes across the town to help reduce energy consumption,	ATC Officers, local businesses, local retail representatives & Energy Alton			Officer Hours, promotional materials	Increased take-up of home energy surveys and renewable energy schemes, e.g. solar panels	Support was given to Energy Alton through the Energy Advice Café in 2022/23. ATC stall at Energy Alton's Green Homes Fair on 29 June. Discuss future initiatives.



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

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Strategy Action Plan – AIM 3

Alton Town Council will lobby decision makers and seek to influence 3rd parties in the adoption of policies providing sustainable alternatives to traditional construction, infrastructure, and transport models.

	Action	Purpose	Detailed Actions			Budget	Evaluation Method	Status
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3.1	Reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change	To increase awareness of car share schemes, school park and stride, reducing idling to lower emissions, the benefits of use of public transport, cycling and walking	ATC / ACAN / EA / Schools			£1,000	Feedback from schools, resident surveys on frequency of use of public transport and alternatives	Additional cycle lanes have been added around Anstey Park to encourage children to cycle to school. The Pump Track provides an opportunity for children to develop their cycling skills.
3.2	Lobbying for low-emissions buses and taxis in partnership with the county council, bus companies and taxi companies.	To lobby providers of buses and taxis to consider more environmentally friendly alternatives to diesel powered vehicles	EHDC/ Stagecoach/ local taxi firms			Officer hours only	Roll out of more low emission vehicles within the local public transport network	Lobby EHDC vehicle licencing for reduced fees for electric taxis.
3.3	Lobbying for a sustainable	To lead by example to enable residents to actively	ATC in partnership			£600,000	Creation of a sustainable bus	Expression of interest form has been submitted to the National



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026

AIM 1

Working Document updated 17/07/2024

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	community transport scheme	make a sustainable transport choice, reduce social isolation and reduce the emissions on our roads	with ACAN and Energy Alton				service for the town	Lottery Climate Change fund. If successful a detailed application will be submitted in spring 2020.
3.4	A review of the current 20mph limits in town with a view to extending across the wider town	To lower emissions in the across the town and increase safety of the network across the town for pedestrians and cyclists	ATC /HCC / EHDC through the place-making strategy			Not yet costed	Successful extension of the 20mph limits across the town	Proposed to be part of the Enhance East Hampshire project over the next 5 years.
3.5	Lobbying for residential and commercial developers to adhere to Passivhaus / AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) standards.	To develop more carbon neutral properties, which eliminate energy waste, through the fabric of the build process rather than with measures which help offset energy consumption	ATC / EHDC / P & T Committee			Not yet costed	Inclusion of suitable policies in the Neighbourhood Plan & Local Plan	Development of new Local Plan on-going and commencement of ANP review to be considered February 2020 Neighbourhood Plan being updated in 2023
3.6	Contribute towards and assist in delivery of the EHDC LWCIP (Local Cycling and Walking	To develop a priority plan for proposed improvements to enable walkers and cyclists to navigate more easily and safely around the town	ATC/EHDC/ HCC/ Local walking and cycling groups – Enhance East			Not yet costed	Increased use of walking and cycling for short journeys across town.	Response to Technical Report given on 29 th November. Revised draft and public consultation awaited (due Feb 2020)



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	Action	Purpose	Detailed Actions			Budget	Evaluation Method	Status
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	Infrastructure Plan)		Hampshire Programme					
3.7	Encouraging local walking and cycling infrastructure network, with considered start/finish locations which feed in to the local transport network.	To promote tourism which minimises carbon footprint	Cycle Alton and LCWIP			Officer Hours plus publicity	Take up of events and surveys of local accommodation to ascertain reasons for staying locally and if this is increasing for walking and cycling.	Review of walking publications underway. Promotional strategy required. The Active Alton Directory has been created to encourage residents to take part in various clubs and groups who promote physical activity. This has been posted on the ATC website and hard copies distributed where needed.