

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 2021/092

Committee:-	COUNCIL
Date:-	17 th November 2021
Author:-	Cllr Emily Fedorowycz, Climate Change Champion
Report Title:-	Climate Change Working Group – Meeting Summary Report
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To report on the conclusions of the last working group meeting and to seek approval for a number of actions arising from it.

2. Recommendations

Council is asked to endorse and support the proposals set out below.

3. Information

1. Committee action items:

- a. Create a sustainability section on the Kettering Town Council website with the following sub-pages:

- Energy
- Recycling
- Rewilding and biodiversity
- Tree planting
- Transport & active travel
- Businesses & grants

- b. Tackle misuse of our environment. For instance, tackle littering with litter picks and flytipping with community skips or NNC Amnesty Days. Group to explore these options and cost them up for budget setting.
- c. Group to explore a ceremonial tree planting event in collaboration with NNC's Grounds Team. Emily to make first contact and assess potential areas for this. Group to investigate funding options.
- d. Reinvigorate pre-existing Gardening Competition run by the Housing department, with a new focus on our pollinator strategy and biodiversity. Lead new local competitions if granted budget from Kettering Town Council.
- e. Begin working with NNC to integrate the resources we are creating into their existing services (for instance local recycling information can be given to local waste team to be handed out to those who recycle incorrectly).
- f. Begin creating a communications plan for the Sustainability Hub on the website, and share resources with Kettering Town Councillors to share within their respective wards going forward.

2. Recommendations to full council:

- a. That each Kettering Town Council member pledges to make one 'switch' as shared my Martyn York (see Appendix A). As part of this 'switch' pledging, councillors are encouraged to travel sustainably to the next full town council meeting, if possible.
- b. All Kettering Town Council members and staff will take Carbon Literacy training. (Note that this costs £10 per person and it was recommended by the Clerk that the budget for this can come from Kettering Town Council's member training budget.)
- c. Purchase banners to promote the sustainability section of the website.
- d. Town councillors are to promote the Kettering Town Council Sustainability hub and its respective sub-pages as and when they are published, as well as the LCWIP consultation launched on Tuesday 9th November. This promotion should be done through surgeries, via social media and by emailing posters to community groups that live within each respective ward, along with any other means of communication members wish to utilise.
- e. Agree whether any budget can be allocated to support local competitions to inspire local community efforts in sustainability, such as gardening and rewilding competitions, innovation competitions, or community competitions.
- f. Agree the following priorities and commitments and publish as a Kettering Town Council press release as our organisation's response to COP26.

3. Commitments as Kettering Town Council (1-3 are already adopted by Council through previous decisions)

- 1. The Council will continue to expect high sustainable standards, improved energy and water use and insulation standards when responding to planning application consultations; it will oppose applications which unsustainably reduce or do not replace natural habitat or damage water courses, or which do not seek to optimise the use of public transport, walking and cycling as means of travel.
- 2. The Council will, within its own remit, strive to protect, restore and enhance our local biodiversity and the natural world that surrounds us and of which we are all a part.

3. The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.
4. The Council should be a paperless organization for most purposes.
5. The Council's members pledge to make at least one green 'Switch' in response to COP26.
6. The Council's members commit to becoming trained in Carbon Literacy, to enhance our knowledge of climate change so we are fully equipped to tackle the challenges ahead.
7. The Council recognise the importance of education and information sharing and are committed to collating and promoting information on key sustainability topics via our new Sustainability Hub. Members also recognise that they don't have all the answers and invite support and collaboration from members of the public to make this resource as useful as possible.

4. Consultation and Engagement

As proposed in the report

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

As set out in the report

6. Policy Implications

The Council has declared a climate emergency and passed motions on bio diversity and becoming a paperless organisation.

Can you make a Big Switch?



We all have the power to make small changes at work and at home that add up to a big difference.

Here's our top ten switches to get you started.

Read more, then submit your switch and join the conversation.



Make a conscious effort to turn off your plugs and electrical appliances fully when you have finished using them. Devices left on standby can consume up to 90% of the electricity used to keep them running during use. From PC monitors, to TVs, lights, and much more, this is a quick fix that many people can make without too much extra effort – **and we can apply it in the workplace just as easily as in the home.**

Don't always leave it running! Make sure you do a full shut down and restart if you haven't done so recently. By restarting your work device, you can ensure all the latest software and patches are installed.



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Switch in the veg



Removing meat from our diets on a regular basis is a healthy and environmentally conscious choice. There are lots of meat-free alternatives if you can't shake the craving, and there are a wide range of recipes and suggestions to help suit all tastes. If you can't do the 30 days, consider starting with 'Meat Free Mondays'.



Switch up your style!



Instead of fast fashion, hit up the upcycling boom and help give a new lease of life to clothes that could otherwise end up in landfill. There are apps, charity shops and all sorts of other ways to buy and sell unwanted clothes. You could even consider hosting a fashion party with friends to get together and pass on preloved items – also a good way to return 'that top' you borrowed three years ago! Remember, you can also give most unwanted clothes items to charity shops.





Switch to forest friendly

Because palm oil is cheap and incredibly versatile, over 80 million tonnes of it are produced every year to make everything from dog food to laundry detergent. The downside of this high demand is thousands of acres of tropical rainforest are chopped down every year to make way for palm plantations, effectively destroying entire ecosystems, pushing some species to the brink of extinction, and releasing unprecedented amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

It is possible to buy 'forest friendly', and some supermarkets are no longer stocking products that contain palm oil. Why not research your regular purchases and see if you can go 'forest friendly' for the next 30 days, or more?



Switch to walking, cycling or public transport



Choose one regular journey you take in the car, and take the opportunity to try switching it out for walking, cycling or public transport, where it's safe and practical to do so. Not only will you reduce the impact on the environment, you're likely to get a boost to your physical and mental wellbeing with the extra exercise – not to mention the potential saving on fuel.

Or where possible, why not try to walk, cycle or bus/train to work for the next 30 days?



Switch to screen-free



Almost everyone loves the latest boxset or hit film – but for the next 30 days, could you try to get away from the screen in the evenings? From board games to family quizzes, gardening, cooking, fitness, yoga, reading, talking and more. There's a lot we can do to fill our time if we use our imaginations.

In the workplace, why not replace long email chains with conversations – whether that's on the phone, or in person if it's safe and practical to do so?





Switch to local



Take the opportunity to purchase local produce from local shops and help reduce the mileage that goes into your food, whilst supporting entrepreneurs in your local area. This might mean walking to the local shops rather than driving to the nearest megastore, or just making a conscious choice to buy food that's been farmed within your local area.



At work, this might mean supporting local businesses in your area, or learning more about the food that's available in your vicinity.



Switch to reusable (or recyclable)



How much of the packaging from your shopping list is recyclable? For the next 30 days, make a conscious effort to only buy products in recyclable packaging. Better still, use reuseable containers where possible and reduce the waste entirely.

In the workplace, you might consider the environmental impact of regular purchases and whether there are opportunities for eco-alternatives that can either be purchased today or identified with colleagues from our Procurement function.





Switch it down



Turning the temperature down on your central heating – and instead putting on your favourite jumper or seasonal blanket – can be a quick change at this time of year in the UK. The same can also apply in the workplace.

In Australia and Saudi Arabia it can be tempting to crank up the air conditioning, but mindful consumption of energy can help manage your electricity bill and your carbon footprint. Examples include keeping the air conditioner between 25–27 degrees, closing doors and only cooling the rooms you are using, keeping blinds and curtains closed during the day, and using fans instead of air conditioning at night.



Switch to in season



Buying fruit and vegetables out of season usually means extra food miles as products are transported across the globe. Why not get creative and see what's in season in your area – you might be surprised at the range available and the opportunities to try something new.

Many of our on-site canteens are already making the move towards seasonal themed meals – consider exploring what's available in your area.



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THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT IS TO FACILITATE COUNCIL DISCUSSION BY PROVIDING A SUMMARY OF ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION – IT IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE OR DUPLICATE INFORMATION WITHIN INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

NOTES:

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- PLEASE KEEP ACTION ITEM INFORMATION IN MULTILEVEL OUTLINE FORMAT TO FACILITATE DISCUSSION AND FOR EASE OF REFERENCE IN EB MEETING MINUTES; PLEASE MINIMIZE USE OF BULLETS.*

