

HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030



**OUR BEST HOPE OF SECURING
OUR FUTURE IS TO ACT NOW!**



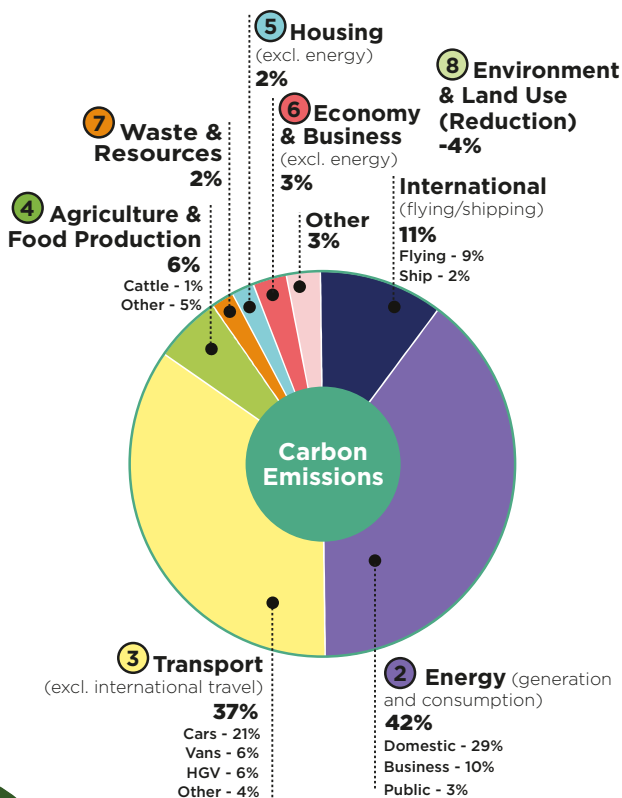
Holme Valley Parish Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency. Action is required by all of us to mitigate the impact of climate change on our community, our country and our planet.

Whilst we may like to think the worst impacts are far away, we are already seeing some effects close to home, with intense heat waves, heavy rainfall and flooding and more frequent moorland fires. Globally, these extremes are causing large scale flooding, crop failures and droughts, increasingly leading to massive people migrations, collapse of societies, mass starvations and millions of species threatened with extinction. These conditions are only predicted to get worse, threatening the futures of our children and grandchildren.

OUR BEST HOPE OF SECURING OUR FUTURE IS TO ACT NOW!

On 25th March 2019, the Holme Valley Parish Council pledged the Parish to becoming **Carbon Neutral by 2030**, in order to help in making our planet safer for ourselves, our children and future generations. The Parish Council has developed this Climate Emergency Action Plan to work together with our community and other levels of government to achieve this aim.

The average carbon emissions of the people in the Holme Valley parish are about 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year, (based on tonnes CO₂e equivalent in 2017). As the average carbon footprint for residents, businesses and the community, this equates to carbon emissions from the Holme Valley Parish of about 180,000 tonnes per year.



REDUCING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS

To avert or reduce the effects of climate change, we need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and remove the excess emissions already in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are mainly produced when fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas and coal) are burned to create energy to power our homes and businesses, and to run our vehicles and machinery.

Reducing these emissions and becoming carbon neutral will require all of us to change to a more sustainable lifestyle, involving ambitious energy efficiency measures (decreasing the energy we use in the first place); getting our electricity from renewable sources (such as wind and solar); moving away from natural gas for heating and electricity generation from fossil fuels; moving to transport powered by renewable energy, eliminating waste and reusing resources, travelling less and promoting sustainable cycling, walking and the use of public transport.

ACTION TAKEN SO FAR

The Holme Valley Parish Council with the local community and Kirklees Council, have already taken some local actions which will have reduced our carbon emissions, such as:

- **Installed significant renewable energy generation capacity**, particularly solar PV and wind turbines, including a community wind turbine 225kW which saves some 210 tonnes of carbon CO₂e each year.
- **Insulated for free over one third of the homes in the Valley** under the Kirklees Warm Zone Programme, reducing our domestic energy requirements
- **Planted a number of young trees and new woodland** in the Valley since 2000.
- **Started upgrading Holme Valley street lighting to energy-efficient LED lights**, saving electrical energy and carbon emissions
- **Developed a Neighbourhood Plan** with ambitions for energy-efficient homes fit for the future.

OUR GOALS:

- **Inform, educate and change behaviours** of residents, businesses and the wider community, in order to take the actions needed.
- **Build resilience** within our community to counter the adverse impact of climate change.
- **Work towards a safe climate** by radically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.



With a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, actions will need to be progressive; building up from *short term actions* raising awareness and showing what can be done, to *medium term actions* setting up pilot or transitional changes delivering some carbon reduction and then the *longer term actions* bringing in major change and the carbon reductions needed to get down to carbon neutral.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION WILL REQUIRE:

- Our homes and businesses to be dramatically more energy-efficient, with carbon-free heating sources.
- 100% clean electricity grid energy and more renewable energy generation within the Holme Valley.
- Ending our reliance on fossil-fuelled personal cars, vans and goods vehicles, with more shared transport and fewer journeys.
- Healthier lifestyles based on locally grown food, less red meat, more walking & cycling and a sustainable local farming economy
- Significant planting of woodland, restoration of our peatlands, preservation of green spaces and the maintenance of biodiversity in our flora and fauna.
- Working together as community residents, businesses, community organisations and all levels of government to respond to the Climate Emergency.



OUR 8 POINT ACTION PLAN FOLLOWS

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with other councils and organisations to show what is possible at the local level. Some of the largest changes, such as decarbonising our domestic energy and transport sectors by moving to 100% clean energy generation and leaving fossil fuels in the ground, will require concerted action at all levels of government, both local and national.

We will build support for this action in our local area and work with community groups and Kirklees Council to advocate for change at higher levels of government.



Action is needed to avert the impact of climate change, and its impact on the lives of our community, as well as other parts of the UK and the world. The Holme Valley community needs to mobilise in response to the Climate Emergency. As the Parish Council we will facilitate this process of change within our community, and will:

SHOW LEADERSHIP

The scale and speed of transformation needed to change our energy markets, our economy, our legislation, and our behaviour in order to reduce carbon emissions, requires leadership at local, national and global levels. For our part, the Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- **Engage and partner with other organisations** to urge local and central government to declare and act on the Climate Emergency to meet the goals of this Climate Emergency Action plan
- **Support our local community organisations** to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- **Report back on our actions** and key achievements.

BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Build engagement and communications between the key stakeholders in our community, e.g. residents, community organisations, businesses, Kirklees Council, and central government. The Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- **Provide information and advocacy** through public meetings, events, newsletters, social media and Council website.
- **Build relationships** and partner with local community organisations, businesses and Kirklees Council to further our Action Plan.

STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

Strengthen resilience of our community for dealing with economic, social and extreme environmental change. The Parish Council will:

- Seek a **shared community vision** of the challenges facing us with the Climate Emergency and the actions proposed, through meetings, events, website, social media etc.
- Strengthen our **community identity and social cohesion**, by building our Holme Valley brand, promoting our strengths and values etc.
- Build **community capacity** (knowledge-sharing, skills and networks) to carry out the actions proposed.



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ENERGY ACTIONS

42% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

Our major challenge is to reduce and decarbonise our domestic energy consumption, by switching to clean fuels for heating and lighting, and by transforming our local buildings and infrastructure to be more energy efficient and fit for the future. The Parish Council will:

- Encourage residents and business to **change behaviours and use less energy**
- Promote the **retrofitting of existing housing stock** (80% of 2050 homes) **to make homes more energy-efficient**, including insulation, draught-proofing, efficient heating/cooling systems and 'smart' controls.
- Ensure **new buildings** (20% of 2050 homes) **are built to high environmental and energy-efficiency standards**, through the planning process and the Local and Neighbourhood Plans.
- Support **local businesses and industry to be more energy-efficient and sustainable**.
- Support the **changeover of our street lighting** and other public facilities to **energy efficient LED lighting**.



- Explore how residents can **purchase renewable electricity on a communal basis** and can access communal district heating networks.
- Urge the government to **power up renewables** so that 100% of grid electricity is clean energy as soon as possible.
- Urge the government to **phase out natural gas use** for all domestic heating boilers and plan for switching to clean fuel sources for heating our buildings, such as renewable electricity, hydrogen, biofuels or heat pumps.
- Support more **renewable energy generation** in the Valley, particularly wind energy, solar and ground/air source heating, and encourage community-led schemes.



TRANSPORT ACTIONS

37% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

The second major challenge is to make the switch to non-fossil fuelled vehicles, such as electric vehicles (EV), to reduce car dependency though better alternative transport services and infrastructure and to reduce our travel journeys. The Parish Council will:

- Promote a **walking and cycling culture**, reducing the need for vehicle transport whilst also improving our health and well-being etc, providing pathways, cycle routes and safe parking facilities for bikes, trikes, cargo-bikes and e-bikes.
- Support and facilitate the **switch to electric (EV) and other clean energy vehicles**, with dedicated parking and charging point facilities.
- Promote **clean energy public transport**, providing local, flexible and public transport services interconnecting our rural areas with transport hubs, using community buses, electric 'uber' style taxis, rickshaw e-bikes etc.



- Encourage more **car-sharing and vehicle-free environments**, reclaiming our road space, limiting personal car access, giving **preference to walkers, cyclists** and providing **better access to public shared transport**.
- Encourage residents to **reduce air travel**, pending clean-energy fuelled aeroplanes coming into service.



Current agriculture and food production practices in the modern world have degraded the land, increasing carbon emissions and reduced the land's capacity to store carbon. A transformation in the way the world produces food and manages the land is required if we are to reduce the sector's carbon emissions. The Parish Council will:



- Promote **local food growing, local producers, farmers markets and local restaurants**, for our local producers to have outlets for their produce, restaurants to use local foods and to encourage residents to 'eat local', whether at home or dining out.
- Seeks **sites for more community allotments and community greenhouses** to promote all year round growing of local foods, to meet local demand.
- Encourage **healthy personal lifestyles** based on maximising use of local produce, with lower red meat and dairy consumption, more fruit and vegetables, to reduce imports of food and to support our local farming economy.
- Promote **sustainable farming practices** in the Valley that maximise local food production and restore the carbon storage capacity of our land, such as natural animal raising, natural pest control, permaculture, polyculture and pasture management.

Photo Credit: Rebecca Armitage



5 HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite our ageing housing stock and rural setting, housing demand in the Valley has risen significantly whilst house building has not kept up. A 'perfect storm' is coming, with shortages of both affordable housing for young people and compact quality housing for older people, coinciding with our existing housing stock needing to be retrofitted with energy-efficiency measures to be fit for the future. These challenging issues will have to be addressed so that the Valley community gets the housing it needs for a sustainable low carbon future. The Parish Council will:

- Support the supply of **affordable housing** in the Valley, including starter homes for the next generation of Valley residents.
- Support the supply of **compact quality housing for older residents** which meets their access and mobility needs, thereby releasing larger family homes onto the market.
- Use its **powers under Local and Neighbourhood Development Plans in the planning process**, to support development of appropriate housing to suit our community needs.
- Facilitate access to land and property for **community-led housing projects**
- Promote the development of **sustainable infrastructure** including green space landscaping, sustainable drainage (SUDS), water conservation measures, permeable surfaces and flood protection measures associated with housing and other building developments.

6 ECONOMY & BUSINESS

As a rural community within commuting distance of the large conurbations of Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, the Holme Valley has to work hard to keep its own town centre shops and businesses going – in many similar rural areas around the country their town centres are failing. For a sustainable local economy, the challenge is to ensure sufficient local jobs and businesses to give the opportunity for residents to work locally in the Valley, instead of commuting for work within West Yorkshire and elsewhere, with all the carbon implications this brings. We will:

- Support **local small business opportunities in the growing green business sector**
- Seek to expand **local employment and training opportunities** as a means of reducing levels of commuting and to encourage young people to stay in the local area.
- Support **local service businesses in the vibrant tourism/entertainment/dining sector**
- Promote better **IT and Broadband services** in the Valley for home workers
- Encourage setting up **business hubs for local working**, with start-up offices, workshops and studios with hot-desking and commercial services facilities
- Support the establishment of **community-led businesses, such as co-operatives**, community benefit societies etc, which are supported by their local community and providing local services.
- Support **local festivals and other lifestyle events** which stimulate tourism and the local economy, as well as contributing to the character and well-being of the Valley.



7 WASTE & RESOURCES

With a natural limit to global resources, our community has to consume less products, produce less waste and recycle more of these waste resources for re-use. As we move to a 'circular economy' where waste become resources, as a community we need to change our 'throwaway' behaviours in order to reduce our carbon footprint. The Parish Council will:

- Support resource initiatives involving **public awareness campaigns**, educational action etc. which reduce consumption and wastage and increase recycling and recovery rates,
- Encourage local businesses to **minimise their trade wastes** and maximise their resource recycling and recovery rates.
- Facilitate the **reduction in single-use packaging** and containers e.g. by providing drinking water fountains in public spaces to reduce the need for single-use plastic water bottles.
- Encourage local businesses to **make recycled end-market products from local wastes**, and sell these locally, though initiatives to drive forward a local circular economy within the Valley.
- Support community re-use and recycling e.g. recycling hubs, repair cafés, cooperative businesses etc.
- Urge government to **enforce the highest levels of resource recovery** and to implement their new UK Waste and Resource strategy in the move towards a circular economy for the UK.

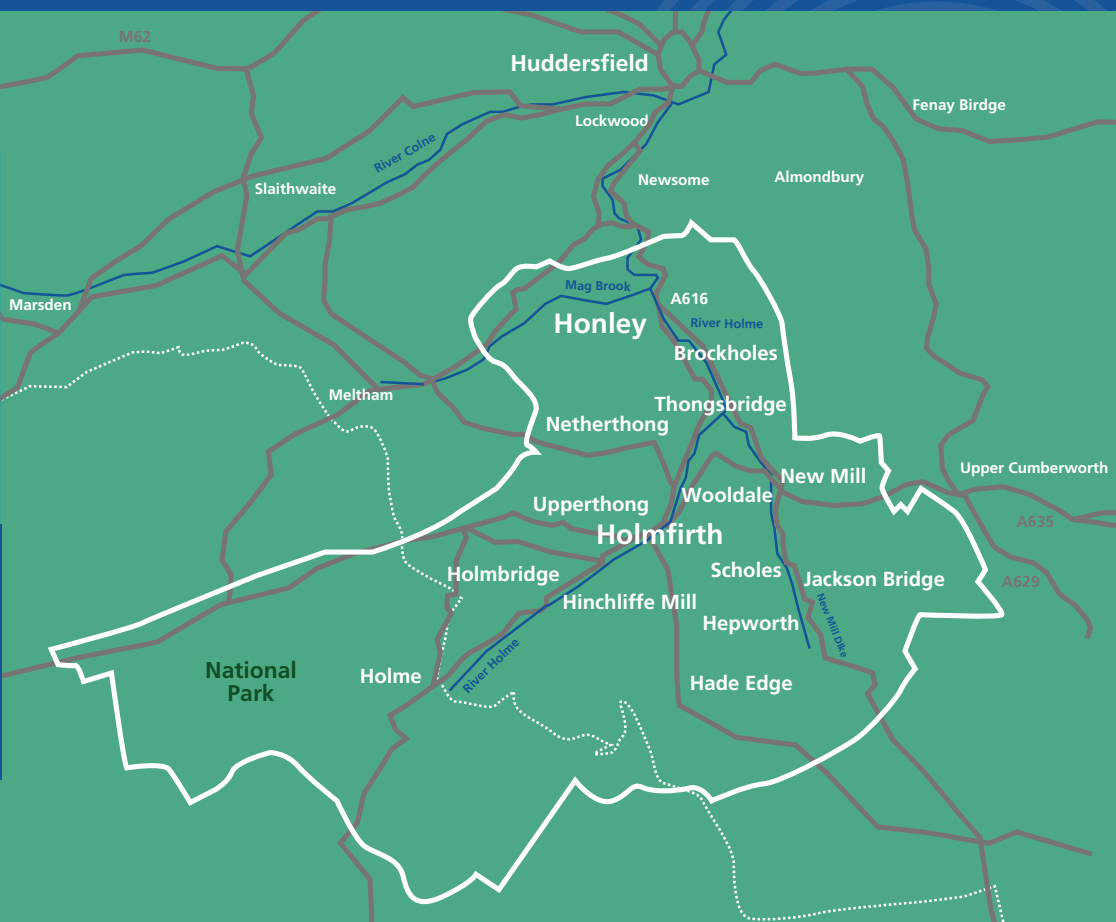
8 ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

With the realisation of the role that sustainable land use and afforestation plays in reducing carbon, the Valley can offset its carbon emissions by planting more woodland, conserving peatlands and wetlands, restoring grasslands and other changes to farmland and moorland, in order to retain them as carbon sinks and promote biodiversity. The Parish Council will:

- Encourage the **planting and management of more trees and woodlands** in our Valley for carbon sequestration (as carbon sinks)
- Support the **restoration and conservation of peatlands and wetlands (bogs)** on our moors
- Support the **restoration of agricultural pastures and grasslands** in the Valley
- Promote **community gardens, permaculture, wildlife gardens and green spaces**
- Encourage **biodiversity of our flora and fauna** to protect our pollinators and sustain a natural environment for crop production.
- Support **sustainable land use measures** in the Valley that can ensure water conservation, flood protection, and soil erosion protection.



HOLME VALLEY CIVIL PARISH INFORMATION



Population: 27,146 (2011 census)

Households: 12,039 (2011 census)

Land area: 70.5 km²

Centre populations:

Holmfirth - 5,074

Honley - 6,596

Brockholes - 1,647

New Mill - 2,828

Transport:

Motor vehicles (cars only)

86% car owning households in the HV (74%)

17,000 est. car numbers in HV

2.3 tonnes CO₂e per year average emission per car

39,100 tonnes CO₂e per year emissions in the HV

Energy:

Domestic Electricity consumption

47,115 MWh per year in HV

3,851 kWh per household per year (3,865)

16,564 tonnes CO₂e per year emissions in HV

Domestic Gas consumption

192,028 MWh per year for HV

17,109 kWh per household per year emission (11,266)

35,549 tonnes CO₂e per year emissions in HV

Business Electricity consumption

12,286 MWh per year in HV

4,319 tonnes CO₂e per year emissions in HV

Business Gas consumption

70,316 MWh per year for HV

12,950 tonnes CO₂e per year emissions in HV

Figures in brackets are equivalent UK figures. Info about Holme Valley Civil Parish from Kirklees Observatory data for 2017 and other published data sources.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



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For information on Climate Emergency
detailed actions see Parish Council website

