



Helston Town Council

Konsel an Dre Hellys

Environmental Planning Statement

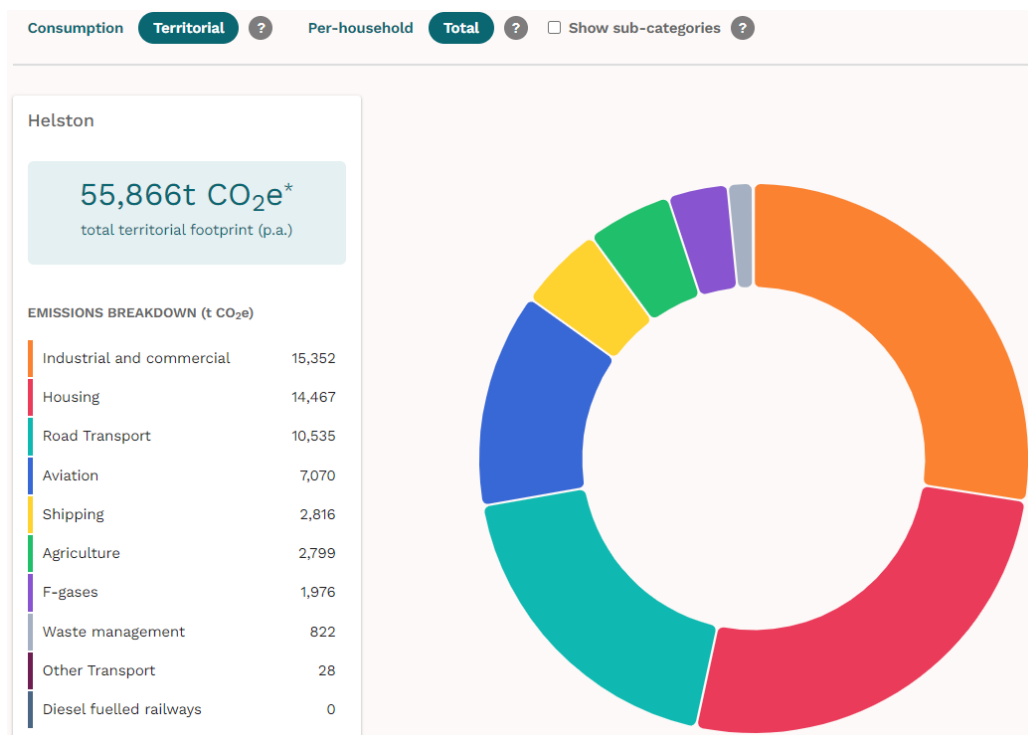
Reviewed: August 2023

Next review: August 2023

1. Introduction

At the beginning of 2019 Cornwall Council and Helston Town Council (HTC) declared a climate emergency. Helston Town Council pledged to work towards making Helston carbon neutral by 2030; and to work with Cornwall Council to assist them with their declaration to make Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030.

Using the Impact Community Carbon Calculator (see Reference List) we can see the estimated carbon footprint of Helston Residents. It shows annual carbon emissions associated with different activities within our parish boundary. A quarter of these emissions are from domestic energy consumption (primarily heating spaces and water and electricity use).



If we are to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, then taking action to reduce domestic energy demand is crucial.

Planning applicants can play a key role in achieving this goal through their incorporation of environmentally sound principals to building design and construction. As a planning applicant it is within your power to minimise the impact on the environment of your building/s. HTC encourages you to strive for the highest possible environmental standards for all buildings and home improvements to contribute to the wellbeing of current and future generations and our environment locally and globally.

The Cornwall Council Climate Emergency Development Planning Document summarises “Climate Change Principles” in policy C1 (see Reference List) and shows that in addition (through design) planning applicants can reduce the impact that buildings have on the local environment and plan how they can enhance biodiversity.

This guideline is intended for anyone applying for planning permission, from small scale home improvements such as window replacements and extensions to large scale multiple building developments. It should be used to supplement Cornwall Council guidance.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Biodiversity

All new developments must achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain. Where this cannot be achieved on site, HTC encourages developers to target projects in the local area which are most likely to provide benefit and amenity to the local community.

[Small Sites Metric Guidance Beta test.pdf](#)

2.2 Energy Efficiency

HTC strongly encourages planning applicants to construct new buildings or carry out building improvements to the highest possible energy efficiency standards rather than the minimum requirement by Building Regulations.

This includes features such as double/triple glazed windows and design considerations such as the orientation of building and windows to maintain the optimum temperature inside the building during cold and hot weather.

2.3 Building Materials

HTC strongly encourages applicants to use environmentally friendly or recycled materials in the building construction wherever these are available, for example uPVC windows made from recycled plastics.

HTC strongly encourages planning applicants to use locally sourced, sustainable materials where these are available to reduce the carbon emissions impact from embedded carbon in products fabricated and transported from further afield.

2.4 Energy Harvest

As part of all new buildings and building improvements, including the addition of roof area (for example with an extension to a building), HTC strongly encourages applicants to include PV panels or water heating systems to harvest solar energy and input into the running of the building using renewable energy.

2.5 Water Management

In order to reduce flood risk and demand on local sewerage works and reservoir capacity HTC strongly recommends that;

- rainwater harvest and grey water recycling are incorporated into designs; and
- hardstanding surfaces be permeable
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2.6 Fossil Fuel Free Building and Water Heating Systems

HTC strongly encourages applicants to fit water and building heating systems that are fossil fuel free rather than just “fossil fuel free ready”. This avoids the additional future cost and carbon emissions associated with retrofitting with a new system.

3. Review

This guideline will be reviewed annually, with the next review due August 2024.

4. Further information

For further information about this subject please refer to:

The UK Green Building Council and their Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework

<https://ukgbc.org/resources/net-zero-carbon-buildings-framework/>

The UK Passive House Organisation

https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/what_is_passivhaus.php

5. Reference List

Impact Community Carbon Calculator

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/using-impact>

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/report?regionId=E04011447&geography=parish>

Cornwall Council Climate Emergency Development Planning Document

Available on their website www.cornwall.gov.uk or via the link below

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/uxgjk4jn/climate-emergency-dpd.pdf>

Policy C1 – Climate Change Principles

Development in Cornwall should represent sustainable development and manage our natural, historic and cultural assets wisely for future generations, contributing in line with the scale and type of development to achieving the following objectives:

- 1) Make the fullest possible contribution to minimising greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the energy and waste hierarchies through ensuring resource efficiency, minimisation of waste and the prioritisation of renewable energy;
- 2) Mitigate against and improve resilience to the effects of climate change;
- 3) Contribute positively to the health, wellbeing and resilience of our communities and the natural world;
- 4) Use and reuse land efficiently and minimise impact of development on soils through over compaction, pollution or reduction in the quality of soil and encourage regenerative practice to conserve the capacity of soils for sustainable production of food, water, raw materials and energy;
- 5) Contribute positively to environmental growth, protecting irreplaceable habitats and the integrity of ecosystems, restoring natural processes and strengthening nature recovery networks, and ensuring a net gain for biodiversity.
- 6) Maximise the ability to make trips by public transport, sustainable and active modes of transport in all developments through careful design and mix of uses that actively support walking and cycling rather than car use for day to day living;
- 7) Conserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and cultural heritage according to their international, national and local significance and increase built and natural environment distinctiveness through locally distinctive, high quality and sustainable design and multi-functional green infrastructure provision;
- 8) Avoid or minimise light, water, air and noise pollution and improve or maintain air and water quality;
- 9) Protect and enhance carbon storage in our natural environment (including the marine environment); and
- 10) Regenerate, improve or maintain the natural functioning of coastal and river processes, avoiding areas at risk of flooding and coastal change and further reducing flood risk elsewhere wherever possible.