



Our Journey to Net Zero

To meet the UK's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, local authorities have an important role to fulfil in interpreting and implementing national policy, leading by example, inspiring local action and lead climate action in their communities.

This is a responsibility not to be taken lightly and Lyme Regis Town Council is conscious of its leadership role, but also the challenges that come with it. Funding constraints can be a barrier to our climate ambitions, national policy can create limitations at a local level and choosing what's most effective isn't always the most popular.

Lyme Regis Town Council works with several other local organisations to meet its environmental aims and together we can achieve a great deal more. We're all working towards the same aim, to make Lyme Regis a greener, more sustainable, carbon neutral community and each of us brings our strengths, expertise and skills to achieve this goal.





Lyme Regis

Town Council

Our work with

Partner Organisations



In response to increasing local interest, the River Lim Action Group was formed in October 2022, with the aim of campaigning for cleaner rivers and beaches in Lyme Regis. The town council has given its full support to the group and receives regular update reports to the Environment Committee. We have also funded the group to continue its monitoring of the river and to carry out a freshwater ecological survey, while also liaising with the Environment Agency and South West Water to keep up the pressure on the group's behalf.

Lyme Regis Town Council is a close partner of Turn Lyme Green, working closely with the River Lim Action Group, providing regular grants to help continue their work, endorsing the plastic-free campaign, and installing Refill points in the town. Turn Lyme Green was set up in 2007 to promote sustainable living in Lyme Regis and engage the community in environmental issues related to energy, waste and resource - efficiency. The organisation has set up many successful projects, including the River Lim Action Group, Plastic Free Lyme Regis, Boomerang Bags and Seeds and Soil. They work with various partner organisations, including Litter Free Coast and Sea to promote initiatives in Lyme Regis, such as the Bin your Butt campaign, and Dorset Climate Action Network to promote the Greener Homes event.



The organisation works with around 40 community groups across Dorset to help increase its reach and impact.

Active campaigns in Lyme Regis include Bin your Butt, which aims to remind smokers to responsibly extinguish and dispose of their cigarettes, instead of tossing them onto the ground. Supported by the town council and Turn Lyme Green, a 'ballot' bin was installed outside the Cobb Arms toilets in 2022 where smokers can vote on a question with their cigarette butts, rather than dropping them on the beach. Colourful pavement art next to the ballot bin, and also next to the Rock Point Inn, further helps to reduce cigarette litter. The town council has also supported Litter Free Dorset's disposable vape campaign, helping to make consumers aware of the correct disposal advice, and the don't Feed the Locals campaign, which aims to address the issue of seagulls stealing food or scavenging from litter and overflowing bins.



Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) is a network of community groups and individuals working together for a shared vision of a clean, green, sustainable Dorset. The organisation supports, works with and lobbies various councils at all levels and community groups across Dorset, and also runs its own campaigns and events.

Dorset CAN's vision is for a zero carbon, bright blue, wild green, locally fed, community centred, sparkling green Dorset.

Projects include Dorset Greener Homes, when homes across the county open their doors to promote green living, the Great Big Dorset Hedge, a campaign to restore and extend the hedgerows of Dorset, and Dorset COP, a conference where organisations can link together to promote climate action from key stakeholders.





Our work with Partner Organisations Continued...



Set up by Lyme Regis Community Support, Lyme Regis Community Garden Growers manages a community garden in the Langmoor Gardens to provide fruit and vegetables to local residents. The volunteers welcome people stopping as they pass to chat to them about the garden and take some produce away with them. The garden growers also supplies fresh produce to Lyme Regis Foodbank to provide to those most in need in our community.

In 2019, the newly-formed Dorset Council declared a climate emergency, acknowledging that it needed to act on the causes and impacts of climate change. This was updated to a climate and ecological emergency later that year, so the protection and enhancement of Dorset's natural environment and wildlife biodiversity was also considered.

The town council has worked with Dorset Council on a number of environmental initiatives, with the support of our local ward member Cllr Belinda Bawden. These include tackling water quality issues at the River Lim and beaches, testing sediment dredged from the harbour, supporting 20mph zones in the town, and clearing hazardous materials fallen from the old municipal tip onto East Beach.



The 2030 Vision 'Community Conversation' was developed to enable community engagement to identify residents' priorities and establish capacity in the Lyme, Uplyme and Charmouth areas to develop climate and environmental projects to address the climate and ecological crises.

Public engagement showed the most important priorities for residents were clean rivers and beaches, wildlife-friendly green spaces, warm, affordable, well-insulated homes, affordable, and connected, green public transport. Other ideas emerging from the consultation included electric bike hiring hubs, better recycling facilities, traffic restrictions and zoning for parking.

Initiatives have been established or are being progressed under the 2030 Vision banner, including the Community Energy Champions, solar PV installation, Speedwatch in several residential areas, proposed 20mph zones in Lyme Regis, and an accessibility and mobility review.



Little Green Change is working with the town council on the Great Big Dorset Hedge, a Dorset Climate Action Network campaign to map, plant, extend and join up sections of hedgerow around and across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife of all sorts (birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildflowers, trees, fungi) to flourish across the county. Funded by Lyme Regis Town Council, Little Green Change is delivering this project locally surveying hedgerows and providing education on the initiative for the wider community. The town council has also funded Little Green Change to host a Give and Take event in Lyme Regis, when children's clothing, toys and books are offered free-of-charge, in exchange for items shoppers no longer use. The events help those struggling financially and promote sustainability by saving items from being sent to landfill.





Working towards **OUR NET ZERO TARGETS**

LYME Regis Town Council has become the first town council in the country to achieve a prestigious award recognising the organisation's dedication to tackling the impacts of climate change.



**Carbon Literate
Organisation**
Silver



The council has been accredited as a Silver Level Carbon Literate Organisation, highlighting its commitment to reducing its organisational carbon emissions and working towards a lower-carbon future.

Carbon Literacy is an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

A Carbon Literate Organisation is an organisation that has been accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project as being 'culturally Carbon Literate'.

As part of the accreditation, more than 60% of councillors and a significant number of staff have completed locally relevant, bespoke training and submitted pledges to reduce their carbon impacts, helping them to gain individual Carbon Literacy accreditation.

This included a commitment to influence others to engage positively in community climate and environmental action.

The silver award demonstrates Lyme Regis Town Council is dedicated to maintaining a substantial proportion of its workforce as Carbon Literate and demonstrating its Carbon Literacy through its organisational behaviour.



Working towards **OUR NET ZERO TARGETS** Continued...

The town council is cutting down on vehicle emissions by replacing several of our diesel vehicles with electric versions

ELECTRIC VEHICLES



As well as, installing EV charging points in our car parks for the use of the public and community. This means, there are now several EV charging points around the town, including within the Dorset Council car parks.

BIO - DIESEL

The town council are currently exploring options for the use of Bio-Diesel in the tractor.





Working towards **OUR NET ZERO TARGETS** Continued...

Good progress is being made on achieving the aims within our strategic plan. Our achievements include installing solar panels on the new amenities hut and harbour store workshop.

SOLAR PANELS



We continue to work on our net zero goal, we plan to change the streetlights in the seafront gardens and lighting on buildings to LED and are investigating solar panels on our buildings. These two buildings are only the start...

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE





Working towards **OUR NET ZERO TARGETS** Continued...

Wildflowers and wildflower-rich habitats, such as meadows, provide valuable support for insects and other wildlife. Pollinators – bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps and more – rely on wildflowers as a vital source of food.



REWILDING AREAS



On the outskirts of the town, the town council is creating wildlife corridors, which encourage wildlife into the urban environment and links Lyme Regis to other towns and villages. Managing these wildlife corridors involves the management of grassed areas, no mowing, introducing wildflowers, tree planting, hedge planting and avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides.

The council also maintains wildflower areas around the town, including at the cemetery, on the banks behind the Marine Theatre, the bank outside Lyme Regis Football Club and at Monmouth Beach chalet and caravan park.



Lyme Regis

Town Council



Environment Committee

BUDGET

The town council have set a dedicated £25,000 Environment budget to support the environmental aims of the council.

This budget has supported the work of our partner organisations, including the hydrocarbon testing of dredged materials from the harbour lead by River Lim Action Group, costing £1,765.

As well as supporting the work of Little Green Change in the form of a one-off grant of £350 to set up an information stall and the Dorset Climate Action Network with a grant towards The Great Dorset Hedge project, costing £1363.

The cost of Biodiversity planting across the town has been budgeted at £7,488 with a total of £5,563 being spent so far.

The town council is committed to supporting the work of our partner organisations, as well as reaching our own net zero goals.

We encourage organisations and individuals to write to us to propose further initiatives to meet our targets and lead the town through the climate change emergency.

contact us today:
enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk

