

THE DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE DECLARATION

1. Dartmoor Forest Parish Council is aware of the significant implications of climate change for all communities. It is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels) and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.

2. Reducing carbon emissions is complex and many apparently obvious solutions can transfer rather than cut emissions. There are four methods available at Local Authority level to reduce carbon emissions:

Avoid emissions where possible by stopping activities.

Reduce emissions where activities cannot be stopped.

Source low carbon products.

Offset unavoidable emissions.

Additionally, environmental factors are linked with climate emergency measures, reflecting concerns over bio-diversity, habitat loss and pollution etc, which is important to our large rural parish.

3. Dartmoor Forest Parish Council does not own any buildings, land or vehicles, and it has limited powers. Despite this, the Council has reviewed its activities to identify where it might reduce carbon emissions, and bring about wider change within our community in response to climate change. We commit to the following measures:

To consider the impact on climate, environment and ecology in our future decisions.

To use Zoom for all co-ordination, project and other meetings where there is no statutory requirement to meet in a public room.

To review grass cutting to leave wild habitat areas rather than blanket short grass.

To consider electric groundsman equipment when machines are due for replacement.

To lobby for the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Princetown and Postbridge.

To lobby for improved public recycling facilities in Princetown and Postbridge.

To support the hill farming community in sustainable farming practices and improved peatland carbon capture.

To support landowners in creating wildflower meadows.

To support local farmers in selling fresh produce direct to the public.