

1. Has taken climate change into account when developing strategies and plans, such as neighbourhood plans.

Since HTC adopted its climate emergency declaration, it has strived to reduce its environmental footprint and enhance biodiversity:

- ✓ Formed a Climate Committee to:
 - I. implement a carbon-neutral roadmap (done)
 - II. create an environmental grants fund (done)
 - III. reduce CO2 emissions
 - IV. conserve / enhance biodiversity (ongoing)
- ✓ Reviewed its procedures so that new initiatives' environmental impacts are considered. In our new toilet block:
 - Energy is solar-powered
 - Sanitary recycled and used to generate power.
- ✓ Commissioned an EPC and implemented key recommendations.
- ✓ Installed an environmentally-friendly heating/cooling system in its town hall.
- ✓ Extended its LED Christmas lights display, preventing landfill
- ✓ Started a 'Green Grants' fund supporting local schemes.

Many of Haslemere's Neighbourhood Plan policies are devoted to protecting local greenspaces and biodiversity.

HTC has reviewed its grounds maintenance regimes to ensure they are aligned to its climate aspirations.

Climate and Biodiversity features heavily in HTC's strategy for 2023-27.

2. Engages with the community in carrying out climate initiatives, such as planting trees.

- ✓ Partnered local interest groups when reviewing our Tree Policy, ensuring a 'right tree, right place' policy regarding location and species of new planting.
- ✓ With COPSE, created a community orchard with various organisations and members of the public participating in planting and aftercare.
- ✓ Facilitated a Zoom meeting with local gardening/landscape professionals to share ideas to encourage biodiversity.
- ✓ Invited community ideas for the best plants to use in landscaping of new toilet block.
- ✓ Provide equipment and encourage community litter-picks
- ✓ Funded a local water testing scheme where members of the public are encouraged to assist with regular water quality testing.

- ✓ Worked with Beacon Hill community to allow 'blue heart' schemes on council land.
- ✓ At the request of the public, installed permanent bike racks at Lion Green.
- ✓ Championed local primary school's pupil parliament request for better recycling bins in key sites.

3. Is helping its community prepare for climate-related effects such as extreme weather or flooding.

HTC's Emergency Plan, adopted in October 2023, includes a section on responding to potential climate-related severe weather incidents such as 'heavy snow, storms or high winds'.

The plan is designed to enable HTC to identify actions it needs to take during an emergency. It also contains a link to the county council's 'Surrey Prepared', part of Surrey Local Resilience Forum and offers advice to residents on how to prepare as well as the opportunity to sign up for alerts.

At the Great Green Get Together, led by the Town Council, organisations such as Love Haslemere, Hate Waste (LHHW) and Transition Haslemere, were offering advice on Community Energy schemes, providing householder tips on saving energy and giving advice on accessing free energy surveys.

This information on climate-friendly energy production and conservation will be updated and duplicated at April 2025's Earth Day.

The Council's Climate Change webpage has links to relevant local organisations.

4. Has worked with organisations to support and deliver local actions on climate change

HTC has worked with:

- ✓ a local biodiversity group to commission biodiversity baseline audit on council owned land, we will use this to monitor net biodiversity changes.
- ✓ organisations including NT and Buglife to create a wildflower verge to bolster the Haslemere B-line, benefitting local pollinators.
- ✓ Surrey Hills to Southdowns train project – encouraging sustainable travel.
- ✓ Haslemere Rotary Club, creating a dead hedge to fill gaps in the SANG boundary to protect the habitat, including a badger sett.
- ✓ numerous local organisations using CiL funds to support climate change projects
- ✓ local organisations including eco churches, eco schools and Haslemere Museum to stage Great Green Get Together 2023 and Earth Day 2025.

- ✓ local climate change groups by assigning a town councillor to sit as a representative on them with a view to encouraging information sharing and support.
- ✓ LHHW repair café – hosted for free at the town hall

<https://haslemeretc.org/climate-change/>