Draft Climate Adaptation Plan



Funded by





BURNHAM-ON-SEA & HIGHBRIDGE 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The climate emergency poses many threats to Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge. Sea levels are rising and winters are becoming warmer and wetter, increasing flooding risks. Hotter and drier summers are increasing the risk of droughts, heatwaves and wildfires.

Adapting to these changes is urgent and essential to reduce the impacts on our buildings, green spaces and the daily life of Burnhamon-Sea and Highbridge's residents.

Through collaborative events, residents have identified four key priorities for how Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge should adapt to the changing climate:



Matching climate adaptation projects with funding

Sharing knowledge on climate adaptation



Linking climate risks to local policies

This plan:

- reflects the priorities of the towns' community
- outlines adaptation actions under each priority
- gives guidance on taking action
- highlights the co-benefits of taking action on each priority, like supporting health and wellbeing or providing habitat for wildlife

Explore this plan to discover the actions you and your community can take to adapt to climate change. Your support and contributions will be vital to ensure we can build a better adapted, resilient and connected future for Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge.

To find out how you can get more involved, contact Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council





INTRODUCTION

Since October 2023, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council and Somerset Wildlife Trust have been working together to address the following challenge:

"How can we help Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge adapt to climate change?"

The impacts of the climate emergency are already unfolding. Sea levels are rising, and flooding, extreme heat, droughts and wildfires are all likely to happen more often in Somerset. Thankfully, there are many ways that communities can act together to be better prepared for the changes and build a positive future where people and nature can thrive.

Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge has a long-standing commitment to environmental action and has made strides in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. But with climate change already impacting the towns, there is an urgent need to adapt.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has been raising awareness of adaptation and encouraging communities across the county to develop plans. In a unique collaboration with the Town Council, we started developing a locally tailored Climate Adaptation Plan for Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge.

Beginning with a Climate Adaptation Training event at the Morland Community Hub, the '<u>Act to Adapt</u>' process has brought together residents, community groups, councillors and Somerset Wildlife Trust's <u>Climate</u> <u>Adaptation</u> team, to:

- Talk about climate change projections for Somerset
- Discuss the need for adaptation in Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge
- Co-create a bespoke climate adaptation plan, using the <u>Climate Adaptation Toolkit</u> for communities

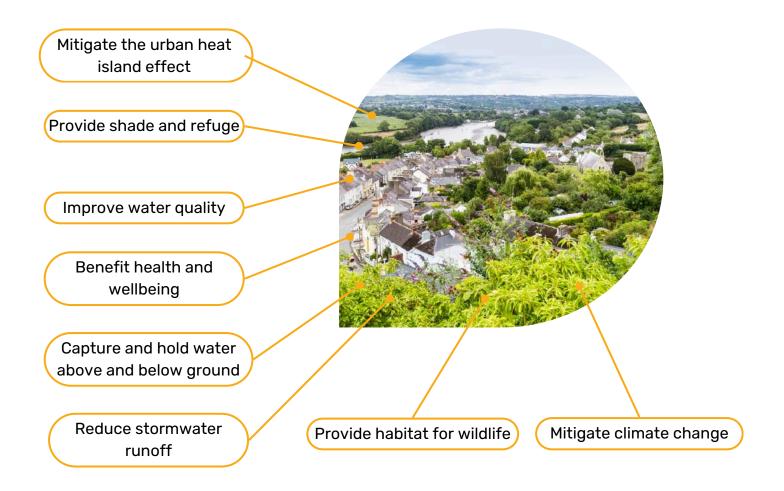
This plan shares the key priorities and adaptation actions chosen by Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge residents, and offers advice on how to make these actions happen. We have also highlighted the adaptation benefits of taking action on each priority and additional 'cobenefits' - such as mitigating climate change or supporting biodiversity – to demonstrate how they will support the towns in becoming better adapted and more resilient to our changing climate.





1. IMPROVING AND INCREASING GREEN SPACES

Actions to improve and increase green spaces across Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge could provide the following adaptation benefits and cobenefits to the local community:



1.1 - Audit local green spaces





Where:	When:	Who:
 Across Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge 	2024 - 2025	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Somerset Council - Clean Surroundings Service

How:

Identify all local green spaces: Create a list and map of all green spaces within Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge. Establish who owns and/or is responsible for managing each green space.

Review opportunities for adaptation: In collaboration with land owners/managers, the Clean Surroundings Service, local residents and interested parties, consider the opportunities to implement adaptations in each green space. Example actions might include:

- tree planting
- pond creation
- drought-adapted planting schemes

Consider using resources like the <u>Climate Adaptation Toolkit</u> and other online sources for inspiration, and talking to ecologists/conservationists about how actions can support both adaptation and wildlife.

Agree and assign adaptation actions: With collaborators, decide a priority list of actions to take in each green space, who will take responsibility, who will be involved in the work, and a timeline for implementation.



- 1. Parks and play areas Somerset Council
- 2. Parks and green spaces near me | Fields in Trust
- 3. Council owned/maintained parks in Sedgemoor area Somerset Council

1.2 - Investigate taking responsibility for green space management





Where:	When:	Who:
 Green spaces currently owned/managed by Somerset Council (see <u>this webpage</u> for locations) 	2024 onwards	 Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council Climate and Ecology Working Group Somerset Council "Friends of" groups Volunteers

How:

Identify or establish groups capable of managing green spaces: Use the results of the green space audit (action 1.1) to identify Somerset Council-owned land that could be locally managed for climate and nature. Identify or establish local groups that are willing and able to take on management/ownership of green spaces.

Organise a meeting with Somerset Council: Arrange a meeting with Somerset Council's Parks and Open Spaces Service team to discuss future ownership/management of green spaces, and whether they would be interested in handing over responsibility to local groups. Make and sign written agreements to confirm any change in ownership/management responsibility.

Review adaptation opportunities: Where successful transfer of ownership/management occurs, hold a planning session with the new management group to review opportunities to take climate adaptation actions. Use the green spaces audit to check previous suggestions and amend plans as necessary for the green space.





- 1. <u>Climate Adaptation Toolkit</u> Somerset Wildlife Trust
- 2. What are 'Friends of' groups? | TCV
- 3. <u>How to Set Up and Maintain a Community Group for your local Park or</u> <u>Green Space | Parks Community UK</u>

1.3 - Increase tree coverage





Where:	When:	Who:
 Public green spaces Housing associations properties Market Street 	2024 - 2030	 Town Council Climate and Ecology Working Group National Highways Somerset Council Tree Officers Housing associations "community connectors": Homes in Sedgemoor, LiveWest, etc. Better BoS Highbridge regeneration group Burnham and Berrow Golf Club Woodland Trust

<u>How:</u>

Identify suitable locations: Use the green space audit and organise discussions with residents and other stakeholders about where more trees could be planted and what species should be chosen. Work with green space owners/managers to discuss practicalities and needs. Contact Somerset Council's Tree Officers to discuss links with Somerset's Tree Strategy.

Identify funding and resources needed: Discuss how much money/support will be needed for tree planting projects. Discuss whether funding is available from the Town Council, via Somerset Council's Tree Officers and the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, or through grant applications (see "Useful links").

Choose suitable varieties: When selecting trees, choose species that meet the wants and needs of your site, and consider varieties that are better adapted to our changing climate. Consider planting fruit and nut trees (where suitable) to provide additional community benefits.

Engage the community: Organise meetings for the community, to make them aware of tree planting projects and to co-design the final planting strategy for the towns.

Organise planting: Arrange planting days at suitable times of the year, encouraging the community to get involved. This could be done in collaboration with groups like Our Highbridge and Better BoS.

Develop a maintenance plan: For advice on monitoring and maintenance see "Useful links".







- 1. <u>Somerset Tree Strategy</u> Somerset Council
- 2. Free Trees for Schools and Communities | Woodland Trust
- 3. <u>UK Community Tree Planting International Tree Foundation</u>
- 4. The right tree for your street | Trees for Streets_
- 5. <u>Tree Planting Advice Plant Trees</u> Woodland Trust
- 6. <u>Managing and caring for trees | Tree Council</u>
- 7. <u>Guide to Young Tree Establishment Arboricultural Association</u>



1.4 - Create competitions to encourage climate-adapted gardening





Where:	When:	Who:
 Across Burnham-on- Sea and Highbridge 	Start discussions in 2024, for categories to be in place for 2025	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Growing Group Burnham-on-Sea & District In Bloom South West In Bloom Homes in Sedgemoor Somerset Wildlife Trust – advice on climate adaptation options

How:

Organise meetings with key stakeholders: Arrange meetings with Burnham-on-Sea & District In Bloom and Homes in Sedgemoor to discuss including a "climate adapted garden" category in their competitions.

Make the case for including a "climate adapted" category: Explain the benefits of making gardens climate adapted, such as providing habitat for wildlife, needing less watering during hot summers, providing shade and other health benefits, etc. Suggest actions that could be included in the marking criteria for the category. These could include:

- Green roofs and walls
- Rain gardens
- Ponds
- Drought-adapted planting
- Use of water butts/rainwater storage
- Trees for shade
- Removing paving stones to replace with planting

Share examples of similar competitions: South and Southeast In Bloom run an Environmental Challenge. Areas in the Netherlands have a 'Tile Whipping" competition to remove hard paving and encourage plant growth in their place.



- 1. <u>RHS Gardening in a Changing Climate report | RHS Gardening</u>
- 2. Key Plants for a Climate Change Garden | BBC Gardeners World Magazine
- 3. Building a Climate-Resilient Garden Ox Magazine
- 4. Down to Earth Advice for Growing a Resilient Garden | Climate Change Garden
- 5. Building a resilient garden for a changing climate | RHS Gardening
- 6. RHS Discretionary Awards RHS Gardening
- 7. Dutch 'tile whipping' contest seeking to restore greenery | The Guardian
- 8. Environmental Challenge 2021 form | South and South East In Bloom

1.5 - Start an "Adopt a flower bed" scheme





Where:	When:	Who:
 Across Burnham-on- Sea and Highbridge Possible sites include: Esplanade flower beds Highbridge and Burnham train station 	2025 onwards	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Growing Group Our Highbridge Alpha House Highbridge Chamber of Trade Burnham-on-Sea & District In Bloom Local schools Local colleges Local businesses

How:

Create a list of suitable flower beds for adoption: Review all existing flower beds, and locations of any potential new flower beds that could be offered up for adoption.

Decide the format of the scheme: Discuss whether "adopters" will only provide funding, whether they will provide materials and labour to plant and maintain the flower beds, or if different formats will be available. Discuss who will carry out maintenance work if a donation-only approach is taken.

Contact potential "adopters": Contact local businesses, colleges and schools to outline the "Adopt a flower bed" scheme and its benefits for people, wildlife and the climate, and gauge interest levels. Consider organising in-person meetings to give more information to interested parties.

Develop advice/a strategy on climate-adapted and wildlife-friendly planting: Work with the Growing Group and Burnham-on-Sea & District In Bloom to develop advice/a strategy on how flower beds can be planted and maintained to ensure they provide adaptation benefits, are climate resilient and wildlife-friendly.

Organise and promote communications for the scheme: Consider organising or supporting planting events, and sharing these through social and local media. Advertise the scheme on the Town Council website, social media etc. to encourage more involvement.



- 1. Drought-resistant plants | RHS Gardening
- 2. <u>RHS Gardening in a Changing Climate report | RHS Gardening</u>
- 3. Building a resilient garden for a changing climate | RHS Gardening
- 4. Adopt a spring flower bed | Lancaster City Council
- 5. Adopt a flower bed Swansea

1.6 - Add trees and planters to streets





Where:	When:	Who:
 Across Burnham-on- Sea and Highbridge 	2025 onwards	 Town Council Climate and Ecology Working Group Highbridge Regeneration group Better BoS Our Highbridge burnham-on-sea.com

How:

Consult with residents: Talk to residents to gauge support for planters and trees to be added to streets, including in shopping areas like the High Street. Explain their benefits and consult on suitable locations and the design and materials used in planters to ensure they are well supported by the community.

Encourage businesses to add trees and planters to their shop fronts: Share information with local companies about the multiple benefits that trees and planters could bring, including to business (i.e. people spending more time in shops on tree-lined streets).

Identify funding and resources needed: Where trees and planters are proposed in non-commercial settings, discuss potential funding sources. These might include the Town Council, through opportunities like the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, or through sponsorships by businesses, for example.

Choose suitable varieties: When selecting plants, consider choosing varieties that are drought-tolerant, to withstand our projected hotter, drier summers. When selecting trees, choose species that meet the wants and needs of your site, and consider varieties that are better adapted to our changing climate.

Consider requirements for street trees: Investigate using "tree pits" to enable planting whilst minimising impact on other infrastructure (see "Useful links").

Organise planting: Arrange planting days at suitable times of the year, encouraging the community to get involved.

Develop a maintenance plan: See "Useful links" for suggestions.







- 1. Free Trees for Schools and Communities | Woodland Trust
- 2. Drought-resistant plants | RHS Gardening
- 3. <u>The right tree for your street | Trees for Streets</u>
- 4. <u>A Guide to Successful Urban Tree Pit Design | GreenBlue Urban</u>
- 5. <u>A guide to planting street trees | City of Trees</u>
- 6. Managing and caring for trees | Tree Council
- 7. Guide to Young Tree Establishment | Arboricultural Association

1.7 - Make green spaces more climate-adapted and nature-friendly





Where:	When:	Who:
 Across Burnham-on-	2024	 Town Council Grounds Team Climate and Ecology
Sea and Highbridge	onwards	Working Group Growing Group Better BoS Our Highbridge Volunteers

How:

Create a new plan/strategy for green space management: Meet with the Council's Grounds Team/contractors, local groups and volunteers to discuss how to manage local green spaces in the future. Consider moving to a longer-term, more sustainable approach that is better adapted and more resilient to our changing climate. Include a focus on enabling the community to benefit more from local green spaces.

Consider including actions already suggested by local residents: such as:

- Micro forests
- Herbaceous perennial borders (rather than short-lived annual displays)
- Selecting native and resilient plant species suitable for local conditions
- Reducing mowing of grass/leaving areas to grow longer
- Planting fruit and nut trees and finding other opportunities to grow food

Develop a timeline for implementation: Discuss which actions can be taken when with the Gounds Team/contractors and other concerned parties. Plot these against a shared timeline to guide implementation.

Incorporate a maintenance plan: For suggestions on monitoring and maintenance see "Useful links".

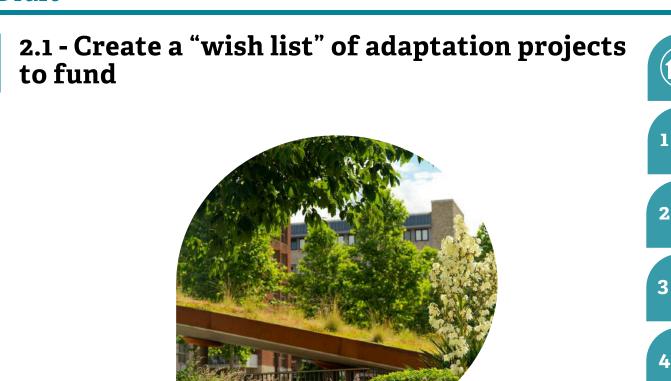


- 1. Micro Forests Scotscape
- 2. Drought-resistant plants | RHS Gardening
- 3. Tree Planting Advice Plant Trees | Woodland Trust
- 4. <u>The Wildlife Trusts and RHS call on gardeners to bring their lawns to life | The Wildlife</u> <u>Trusts</u>
- 5. Managing and caring for trees | Tree Council
- 6. What does a resilient orchard look like? The Orchard Project

2. MATCHING CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECTS WITH FUNDING

Working to match climate adaptation projects across the towns with appropriate funding sources could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:





Where:	When:	Who:
• TO BE IDENTIFIED DURING CONSULTATION	2024	 Town Council Climate and Ecology Working Group Potential funding sources: Developers Hinkley Point C - small grants fund Somerset Community Fund Corporate sponsorships/ partnerships RHS Connected Communities and Sustainable Futures Grants

How:

Seek local views on adaptation priorities: Organise consultation events (and online opportunities) for residents to share their opinions and priorities for adaptation actions across the towns. Ask what actions residents would like to implement, and where. Compile the suggestions and identify which have the greatest support.

Add existing suggestions to the list: Previous adaptation workshops identified the following ideas for action:

SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

- Creating wetland areas adjoining Forge Rhyne
- Build/create a new park, akin to Apex Park
- Installing solar paving/parking bays

Discuss where such actions could be implemented.

Hold a meeting to discuss priority actions: Invite representatives of stakeholders (such as Better BoS and Our Highbridge) to a meeting. Discuss which communityidentified priority actions should be delivered, and when. Consider linking with external groups, like Wellington and Taunton Transition Towns, to discuss actions they have successfully taken, and how they achieved them.

Identify suitable funding opportunities: Discuss potential funding sources and identify which match each priority action best. Potential funding sources (or further information on funding sources) identified through the Act to Adapt process include:

- Developers
- Community Infrastructure Levies (see action 2.2)
- Hinkley Point C's "Small Grants"
- <u>Somerset Community Foundation</u>
- SPARK Somerset's Funding Portal
- Corporate sponsorships/partnerships suggestions include: Supermarkets; Isleport Business Park; Wessex Water; Sanders Garden Centre; Yeo Valley; Gravity
- <u>RHS Connected Communities and Sustainable Futures Grants</u> currently allocated, but look out for any future opportunities

Decide which grants to apply for and/or businesses to approach. Decide who will be responsible for writing applications and for contacting potential funders. Monitor progress at regular meetings.

- 1. <u>Transition Network | Transition Towns</u>
- 2. How can we help | SPARK Somerset
- 3. How to write a charity grant application | Charities Aid Foundation
- 4. Attracting a Corporate Partner | Charities Aid Foundation
- 5. Businesses How They Can Help You (and how you can help them) | The Nextdoor Nature Hub

2.2 - Invest in adaptations using Community Infrastructure Levies





Where:	When:	Who:
• TO BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH 'WISH LIST' (see action 2.1)	2024 onwards	 Town Council Planning Committee Somerset Council Planning Office Climate and Ecology Working Group Local residents Developers Contractors

How:

Review rules on use of funds from Community Infrastructure Levies: Read legislation and summaries about Community Infrastructure Levies (CILs) and how the funds raised can be used (*See 'Useful links'*). Consider which 'Green Infrastructure' actions and projects would be acceptable for using CIL funds.

Estimate potential share of CILs due in the towns: Identify upcoming developments around the towns and estimate the likely share the Town Council will receive to develop a draft budget.

Create a list of priority Green Infrastructure projects to fund: Develop a list of priority Green Infrastructure projects at Council Planning meetings. Include relevant actions from the community-created 'wish list' (Action 2.1). Create a timeline for implementation, and discuss how projects will be carried out (i.e. in-house, using contractors etc.). Liaise with Somerset Council, as the collecting authority, on these issues.

Carry out projects as funds become available: Start carrying our projects as funding from CILs becomes available. Appoint contractors as necessary. Measure the benefits of completed projects in terms of climate adaptation and other community benefits.



- 1. <u>Community Infrastructure Levy an overview | DLUHC</u>
- 2. <u>Position Statement on CIL | Wildlife and Countryside Link</u>
- 3. Community Infrastructure Levy Somerset Council
- 4. <u>Community infrastructure levy funds South Gloucestershire's green plans</u> <u>Ashden</u>



2.3 - Explore the potential of Biodiversity Net Gain





Where:	When:	Who:
TO BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH A REVIEW OF LAND HOLDINGS	2024 onwards	 Town Council and Planning Committee Somerset Council Consultancies, such as Somerset Wildlife Trust Consultancy Developers

How:

Review land holdings: Review council-owned land and identify any sites that could be eligible for delivering BNG units. Include any land that is gifted to/bought by the Town Council from Somerset Council.

Conduct baseline habitat surveys: Carry out baseline habitat surveys of possible sites, to establish existing biodiversity and estimate the potential 'biodiversity uplift' that could be delivered. This could be helpful in estimating the potential financial return from BNG.

Discuss opportunities for BNG and consider next steps: Contact consultancies to discuss the opportunities for BNG projects. Ecological consultancies could potentially support the assessment of deliverable BNG units. Decide whether there are any suitable sites where BNG projects are worth progressing.





- 1. Biodiversity Net Gain | DEFRA
- 2. Understanding Biodiversity Net Gain | DEFRA
- 3. Biodiversity Net Gain | Somerset Council
- 4. Somerset BNG Guidance Note Somerset Council

3. SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Sharing more knowledge of climate change, adaptation and naturebased solutions across the towns could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



3.1 - Publicise the Climate and Ecology Working Group





Where:	When:	Who:
 In-person: Attractive posters and leaflets in local shops and community spaces Green articles for local newspapers, i.e. Somerset Gazette Displays and interactive resources for local events June Eco Festival Burnham Book Festival Local radio programmes On-line: Yown council website Social media: i.e. Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn burnham-on-sea.com Our Highbridge Interactive climate adaptation websites WeAdapt 	2024- onwards	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Town council

How:

In-person:

- **Create Attractive Posters and Leaflets:** to clearly communicate the group's mission and activities. Distribute these in high-traffic areas such as local shops and community spaces to reach a broad audience.
- **Green Articles for Local Newspapers:** Write compelling articles about the group's work and its impact on the local environment.
- **Displays and interactive resources for local events:** Participate in local events like the June Eco Festival and the Burnham Book Festival. Create engaging displays and interactive resources that educate attendees about the group's work and how they can participate.
- Local Radio Programmes: Partner with local radio stations to host a programme or segment about the group. This could include interviews with group members, discussions about projects and information on how listeners can get involved.
- **Support from Town Council Officers:** Seek support from appropriate Town Council officers. They can help publicise the group's work through official channels and provide valuable advice and resources.

Online:

- **burnham-on-sea.com and Town Council Website:** Post detailed information about the group's work on these sites. This could include updates on current projects, upcoming events, and opportunities for community members to get involved.
- **Social Media:** Use platforms like Facebook (burnham-on-sea.com, Our Highbridge), Instagram, and LinkedIn to reach a wider audience. Post regular updates, share photos from events, and engage with followers.
- Interactive Climate Adaptation Websites: Link in with interactive websites that provide information about climate adaptation and case studies for projects.
- List the Climate and Ecology Working Group on the 'Team Wilder' Map: This can help raise awareness of the group among people interested in environmental initiatives.



- 1. The Power of In-Person Marketing: Why It Still Matters | Inkbot Design
- 2. <u>Unlocking the Power of In-Person Marketing | ChatableApps</u>
- 3. Marketing Tips & Tricks for Community Groups | Barnwood
- 4.8 Ideas for Promoting Your Online Community | Social Media Today

3.2 - Create and share climate messages and events





Where:	When:	Who:
 As above Organising local eco- events Eco Markets Climate Cafés Eco-Film Screenings Community Clean- ups Climate Art and Music Festivals 	2024 onwards When paid position is in place	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Appropriate Town Council officers Local community Andy Bennett - BBC Radio Somerset U3A Somerset Arts council

<u>How:</u>

Organise Local Eco-Events: Create community and social occasions around these events to foster a sense of community and shared purpose.

- **Eco Markets:** for selling eco-friendly products or services, from organic food to artisanal products using recycled materials. This can support local businesses and promote sustainable consumer habits.
- **Climate Cafés:** Informal gatherings where people can discuss climate issues over a cup of coffee. The goal is to create a safe, welcoming space for people to learn, share their concerns, and explore solutions.
- **Eco-Film Screenings:** for films or documentaries related to environmental issues. A discussion or a guest speaker could follow these screenings, to deepen understanding of the topic.
- **Community Clean-ups:** to clean up local areas like parks, beaches, or streets. It's a practical way to care for the local environment and can also be a powerful visual reminder of the impact of littering.
- **Climate Art and Music Festivals:** Use art and music to raise awareness about climate change. They could include climate-themed art exhibitions, performances by musicians who are passionate about the environment, and workshops on eco-friendly art practices.

Research how other groups communicate about climate change: to gather ideas and best practices. Vary your approach based on the most successful strategies to reach a wider audience.

Annual communications plans: Decide on important messaging that resonates with your community. Regularly share "3 actions you can take this month" articles or social posts as part of your communications plan to empower the community and encourage active participation.

Social events focused on climate action: Encourage participation in workshops and projects. Give people ownership and a voice in these events where possible. This can help foster a sense of personal investment and commitment.

Training sessions on effective communication techniques: Organise training and provide resources/guidance to empower your community. Sessions could focus on communicating about living better, saving money, enjoying nature, and embracing the challenge of climate action.

Success stories platform: Create or search for a platform for sharing successes. This could be aimed at policymakers, practitioners, or the public, depending on your goals. Sharing successes can inspire others and demonstrate the impact of your efforts. This platform could also enable the community to voice their experiences and take ownership of climate action projects.



- 1. Communicating on Climate Change | United Nations
- 2. <u>Climate communication: 10 research-backed tips | Harvard</u>
- 3. <u>4 key steps to planning your climate change content | Green redeem</u>
- 4. Let's talk climate change: four tips for communicating about it ODI
- 5. What are the best practices for making sustainability messages accessible to the public? | LinkedIn
- 6. <u>12 tools for communicating climate change more effectively | The Guardian</u>

3.3 - Create and share guides on local climate and environment issues





Where:	When:	Who:
 Local community spaces Cafes Library Town Hall Promote local events 	2025 - 2026	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Relevant experts, such as SRA Communities team

How:

Identify Key Local Issues: Start by identifying the key environmental and climaterelated issues in your local area. This could include topics like flooding, air pollution, waste management, etc.

Find Community Experts: Seek local experts who can provide valuable insights and content for your guides. These could be local scientists, environmental activists, or even knowledgeable community members.

Create Content on Local Issues: For example, you could create a guide on the "History of Apex Park and its Role as a Drainage System". This guide could explore how the park's design and infrastructure help manage water flow and reduce flooding risk.

Provide Actionable Advice: In your guides, provide practical advice on actions residents can take to mitigate these issues. For instance, you could give tips on how residents can reduce their risk of flooding, such as installing water butts, creating rain gardens, or keeping local drains clear of debris.

Distribute Guides in Community Spaces: Share your guides in local community spaces where they're likely to be seen by a wide range of residents. This could include:

- Cafes: Leave printed copies of your guides for customers to read while they enjoy their coffee.
- Library: Partner with your local library to create a dedicated section for your environmental guides.
- Town Hall: Work with local government officials to distribute your guides at the town hall, where they can reach a wide audience.

Promote at Local Events: Use local events as an opportunity to distribute your guides and engage with the community. You could set up a booth at a local fair, give a presentation at a community meeting, or even host your own event focused on local environmental issues.



- 1. <u>10 Ways To Make Marketing Leaflets Relevant | B&B Press</u>
- 2. <u>5 ways to create leaflets and flyers with impact | LinkedIn</u>
- 3. Top 9 Leaflet Marketing Mistakes To Avoid | Dor-2-Dor



3.4 - Run annual Eco Festivals and Green Energy Summits



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Where:	When:	Who:
 Apex Park Town Hall 	2024 onwards	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Community organisations Environmental charities, i.e. Somerset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, WWT etc.

How:

Organise Eco-Friendly Events: Plan and carry out annual events such as Eco Festivals and Green Energy Summits. These events can showcase local eco-friendly businesses, provide educational workshops, and offer networking opportunities for attendees.

Engage Local Businesses and Organisations: Collaborate with local businesses and organisations that are invested in eco-friendly practices. They can participate in the events as sponsors, exhibitors, or speakers. This not only provides them with a platform to share their work but also enriches the event with diverse perspectives.

Promote Through Various Channels: Use a multi-channel approach to promote your events. This could include social media, local news outlets, newsletters, and word of mouth. The goal is to reach as many people as possible and encourage community participation.

Partner with Community Organisations: Work with community organisations to broaden your reach and impact. These organisations can help promote the event, recruit volunteers, and provide local context and connections.

Collaborate with Environmental Charities: Partner with environmental charities such as Somerset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, WWT, etc. that could contribute in various ways, from providing expert speakers to helping with event promotion.



- 1. The Real Meal Deal How to organise a Green Eco Sustainability Fair
- 2. The Icaris Foundation Green Festivals and Events Guide
- 3. First Event How to plan a green event: our ultimate guide!
- 4. Forbes Organizing And Communicating Energy Summits
- 5. Friends House Tips to run your sustainable event



3.5 - Work with schools to educate and inspire climate action





Where:	When:	Who:
 Schools across Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge 	2024 onwards	 King Alfred's Eco Group S.O.S schools (via Mark Ward) Climate and Ecology Working Group, School representatives, Environmental educators, Community organisations Somerset Youth Theatre

How:

School Visits, Workshops, and Events: Plan and carry out educational visits, workshops, and events at local schools. These activities can provide hands-on learning experiences and inspire students to take action on climate issues.

Blue Influencers and Wilder Schools: Encourage schools to become 'Blue Influencers' and 'Wilder Schools'. This involves promoting sustainable practices within the school community and integrating environmental education into the curriculum.

Partnerships with Schools: Establish partnerships with local schools to develop educational materials and programmes. These resources can help teachers incorporate climate education into their lessons and inspire students to take action.

Regenerate Groups: Work with regenerate groups to engage schools in local regeneration plans. This could involve conducting workshops where students can voice their ideas for climate adaptation in the regeneration plans.

Somerset Youth Theatre: Collaborate with Somerset Youth Theatre to engage children with the climate emergency in creative and impactful ways. This could involve creating performances that explore climate issues or running drama workshops that encourage students to express their thoughts and feelings about the environment.



- 1. British Council Exploring climate action in the classroom
- 2. <u>Goverement Website Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for</u> <u>the education and children's services systems</u>
- 3. United Nations Education is key to addressing climate change
- 4. Let's go Zero Organisations that can help you take action
- 5. <u>Goverement website Get inspired: schools responding to the climate</u> <u>change challenge</u>
- 6. Transform Our World Schools Climate Action Planner

3.6 - Organise "climate conversations" training for residents



Where:	When:	Who:
• Climate and Ecology Working Group meeting	2025 - 2026	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Communication professionals Community leaders

How:

Hosting Climate Conversations Workshops: Collaborate with a respected provider to conduct evidence-based workshops designed for climate conversations. These workshops should be grounded in the latest climate science and equip participants with the necessary skills for confident climate discussions, such as active listening, empathy, and effective communication techniques.

Interactive Learning Experience: Incorporate interactive activities that allow participants to practice newly acquired skills in a safe, supportive environment. Provide constructive feedback and guidance to help them improve their communication techniques. Offer training on conveying complex climate information in a simple way, using techniques like analogies, storytelling, and visual aids.

Accessibility and Scheduling: Schedule regular training sessions at convenient times and locations, ensuring they are accessible to a wide range of participants, including working professionals, students, and community members.

Ongoing Skill Development: After the initial training sessions, provide opportunities for continuous learning and skill development. This could include advanced workshops, online resources, webinars, and regular updates on the latest climate science and communication strategies. Encourage participants to share what they learn with others in their communities, creating a ripple effect of climate awareness through word of mouth.

Feedback and Improvement: Collect feedback from participants after each training session and use it to continuously improve the content, delivery, and overall effectiveness of future workshops.

Community Building: Consider establishing an online community or forum where participants can share their experiences, ask questions, and receive ongoing support from facilitators and peers.



- **1.** <u>Larger us Climate conversations: how do we know if they make a difference?</u>
- 2. <u>Climate Outreach Climate Change Public Conversation Series</u>
- **3**. <u>Climatic Change Breaking the climate spiral of silence: lessons from a COP26 climate conversations campaign</u>



3.7 - Set up an Eco Centre to support residents with sustainable living





Where:	When:	Who:
 Dedicated space Online platform 	2024 - 2030	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Sustainability experts Relevant Town Council officers Community leaders Community organisations Burnham & Weston Energy – Already doing energy audits and retro fitting advice

How:

Establishing an Eco Centre: Create an Eco Centre as a hub for all sustainabilityrelated activities. This centre could serve as a resource and information point for residents interested in sustainable living. It could house various exhibits and demonstrations on eco-friendly practices and technologies.

Conducting household visits and eco audits: Implement a programme where trained staff or volunteers visit households to conduct eco audits. These audits will assess the current environmental impact of the household and provide recommendations for improvement. This could include tips on energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, and more.

Working with key stakeholders: Collaborate closely with various stakeholders to ensure the success of the Eco Centre. Each stakeholder can bring unique expertise and perspectives that can greatly contribute to the project.

Partnering with Burnham & Weston Energy: Leverage the existing efforts of Burnham & Weston Energy, who are already conducting energy audits and retrofitting help. Explore opportunities for collaboration, such as joint workshops or referral programs.

Promoting sustainable living: Beyond the direct services offered, the Eco Centre could also actively promote sustainable living. This could be through regular events, workshops, and campaigns. The Eco Centre could also help foster a strong culture of sustainability in the community.

Continuous improvement: Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the Eco Centre and its programmes. Collect feedback from residents and use it to continuously improve. Stay updated with the latest sustainability practices and technologies, ensuring that the Eco Centre remains a relevant and valuable resource for the community.



- 1. UN Environment Programme Five tips for living more sustainably
- 2. <u>Sustainable living Association 10 tips for encouraging sustainbility in your community</u>
- 3. <u>One Tree Planted 9 ways to be more sustainble at home</u>
- 4. Play it Green How Can We Inspire Others to Go Green?

4. LINKING CLIMATE RISKS TO LOCAL POLICIES

Working to link climate risks to local policies and planning structures, using the following actions, could provide Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge with these adaptation benefits and co-benefits:





4.1 - Work with experts to identify climate vulnerabilities and knowledge gaps





Where:	When:	Who:
 Burnham-on-Sea Highbridge 	2024	 Climate and Ecology Working Group Somerset Council Environment Agency Bristol Water Wessex Water Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)

How:

Linking Climate Risks to Local Policies: Organise a meeting with the Climate and Ecology Working Group to conduct a risk gap analysis. Invite local agencies to attend and help with the gap analysis. It's important to acknowledge that gaps will always exist, but the focus should be on creating a plan that prioritises action alongside gathering any further risk information.

The Environment Agency is expected to update its modelling and the Shoreline Management Plan in the next 2-3 years. This presents an opportunity to align these updates with local policies.

Setting Up a Talk Between the Environment Agency and the Climate and Ecology Working Group: Organise a meeting between the Environment Agency, the Town Council and the Climate and Ecology Working Group. Talk about key issues and discussion points in advance, and share an agenda with the Environment Agency team to guide the meeting.

Working with Key Stakeholders: Collaboration is key in this process. Work closely with the Climate and Ecology Working Group, Somerset Council, Environment Agency, Bristol Water, Wessex Water, and the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). Each of these stakeholders brings unique expertise and perspectives that can greatly contribute to the project.

Acknowledging and Addressing Gaps in Knowledge and Action: Gaps in knowledge and action will always exist when dealing with complex issues like climate change. However, these gaps should not paralyse action. Instead, they should be seen as opportunities for learning and improvement. Agree on a plan that prioritises immediate and effective action, while also dedicating resources to gather further risk information.







- 1. Environment Agency Shoreline management Plan
- 2. <u>Environment Agency National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy</u> <u>for England</u>
- 3. Somerset Council Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy
- 4. <u>Somerset Rivers Authority Somerset's 20-Year Flood Action Plan</u>
- 5. Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council Transport Action Plan
- 6. Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council Strategic Plan
- 7. Bristol Water Drought plan
- 8. <u>Wessex Water Drought plan</u>
- 9. Wessex Water Drainage and wastewater management plan

4.2 - Create flood and drought risk plans for the towns





Where:	When:	Who:
 Burnham-on-Sea Highbridge 	2024 - 2028	 Environment Agency Bristol Water Wessex Water SRA Communities team Somerset Council Community organisations

<u>How:</u>

Reviewing and Assessing Existing Plans: Start by reviewing the existing flood and drought risk plans from Somerset Rivers Authority, Environment Agency, Bristol Water and Wessex Water. Assess whether these plans are fit for purpose in Burnham and Highbridge. This involves understanding the unique geographical, climatic, and socio-economic factors of the towns and determining if the existing plans adequately address these factors.

Promoting Individual Preparedness: Promote individual flood preparedness plans among residents. This could involve education about the risks, providing guidance on how to prepare homes, and informing about the steps to take during a flood event. These actions will help to minimise the impact of floods.

Monitoring and Forecasting: Implement a system to monitor water levels and forecast demand. This can help in early detection of potential flood or drought conditions. In case of potential restrictions, communicate this to the residents in a timely manner so they can prepare accordingly.

Conservation Strategies and Water Restrictions: Develop and implement water conservation strategies. This could include promoting water-efficient appliances, encouraging rainwater harvesting, and implementing landscape practices that reduce water usage.







<u>Useful links:</u>

See 4.1 links

- 1. Somerset Prepared
- 2. Somerset Council Preparing for emergencies
- 3. Government website Prepare for flooding
- 4. Communities Prepared
- 5. The Wildlife Trust How to conserve water
- 6. <u>Waterwise Save Water</u>
- 7. Government website Check for flooding

4.3 - Collaborate with others to advocate for climate-adapted planning policies





Where:	When:	Who:
 Burnham-on-Sea Highbridge Local Community Network 	2024 - 2028	 Engineers, consultants Town Council Somerset Council Residents Planning groups Environmental groups Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge climate adaptation planning response group Members of the Town Council Planning Committee Somerset CAN Local planning departments Developers Local Community Networks SALC - Somerset Association of Local Councils

How:

Creating a Dedicated Working Group: Establish a working group focused on advocating for climate-adapted planning and policy across Somerset. Consider linking with the Local Community Network (LCN), to help advance the advocacy efforts.

Advocacy and Campaign Planning: Develop a comprehensive plan for how to advocate and campaign for better infrastructure planning. This plan could outline the key messages, target audiences, communication channels, and desired outcomes.

Training and Capacity Building: Organise training on writing public comments to planning applications. This will empower community members to actively participate in the planning process. Arrange for training from the Somerset Association of Local Councils for interested members on what planning regulations they have the power to enforce and how to put in an effective response to new applications.

Policy Advocacy: Refer to strong climate action recommendations from the Local and Neighbourhood Plans when responding to planning applications. Campaign for a policy that gives default refusal when certain climate adaptation criteria are not met. Also, advocate for all developments to have Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) schemes and for the enforcement of current rules.

Advocacy Campaigns and Policy Engagement: Organise advocacy campaigns to raise awareness and generate support for climate-adapted planning policies. Engage with policymakers to influence decision-making and bring about policy change.

Community Networking: Bring issues to the Local Community Network and other relevant platforms to garner wider support and influence. Collaborate with other climate adaptation-planning response groups, Somerset CAN, local planning departments, and the Somerset Association of Local Councils to amplify advocacy efforts.

Stakeholder Assessment and Engagement: Identify and assess the stakeholders and prospective stakeholders involved in planning issues. This includes engineers, consultants, Town Council members, residents, planning groups, environmental groups, and developers. Network with relevant organisations, organise meetings, invite stakeholders, and facilitate discussions to ensure their input and buy-in.



- 1. <u>Somerset Association of Local Councils Events (Training run on responding to planning applications,</u> <u>national planning updates and neighbourhood plans)</u>
- 2. Campaign to Protect Rural England How to respond to planning applications: an 8-step guide
- 3. Commons Library Influencing the planning process (England)
- 4. Somerset Council Information requirements for planning applications

4.4 - Create a volunteer group to clear drain surfaces and report blockages





Where:	When:	Who:
• Across Burnham-on- Sea and Highbridge	2024 - 2026	 Town Council Residents SRA Communities team Somerset Council Somerset Prepared Somerset Village and community agents

How:

Creating a volunteer group: Establish a volunteer group dedicated to clearing drain surfaces and reporting blockages. This group could comprise local residents who are interested in contributing to the community's resilience against flooding.

Organising volunteers and promoting the reporting system: Organise volunteers by providing them with the necessary training and resources. Promote the reporting system to ensure that all volunteers are aware of how to report a blocked drain. This could be done through community meetings, social media, or local newsletters.

Establishing reporting protocols and coordinating with authorities: This includes what information to include in a report, who to report to, and what to do if immediate action is required. Coordinate with local authorities such as the Town Council and Somerset Council to ensure that the reports are acted upon promptly.

Linking into the Flood Warden Scheme: Link the volunteer group with the existing Flood Warden scheme. This will provide the volunteers with additional support and resources, and ensure that their efforts are aligned with wider flood prevention strategies.

Researching accountability measures: Research the steps to escalate action on blocked drains, or who to hold accountable for damage that has occurred due to inaction.

Working with key stakeholders: Collaborate closely with key stakeholders such as the SRA Communities team, Somerset Prepared, and Somerset Village and community agents. These stakeholders can provide valuable support and resources, and help to promote the volunteer group's efforts within the wider community.



Useful links:

- 1. <u>Somerset Council Flooding information and advice</u>
- 2. Somerset Rivers Authourities Prepare against flooding
- 3. Somerset Council Sedgemoor Drains and Sewers
- 4. Somerset Council Drains and gullies

CONCLUSION

This plan shares the community's priority actions for helping Burnhamon-Sea and Highbridge thrive through our changing climate. Some can happen quickly, like planting trees, to give an instant adaption boost. Other actions, such as advocating for climate-adapted planning policies, are longer-term projects that will significantly enhance the towns' adaptation and preparedness.

Every action in this plan will also bring many other benefits to Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge. These "co-benefits" include:

- improving community health and wellbeing
- making space for wildlife
- mitigating climate change



By working on these actions together, you can also strengthen community links, which is vital for making the towns well-adapted and resilient.



Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge's Climate Adaptation Plan should be seen as a living document, at the starting point of a wider process. The plan should:

- be reviewed regularly
- be updated as needed
- reflect the changing climate and the changing priorities and needs of the community

By staying flexible, and continuing to listen to Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge's residents, the plan can best guide the community in adapting to climate change.

Now it is time to act! Everyone can play a role in making Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge better adapted. To find out more about how you can get involved in implementing this plan, contact Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council or Somerset Wildlife Trust.

NEXT STEPS

Through our "Shaping a Plan for Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge" events and online survey, we are gathering more ideas and feedback on how you think your town can better adapt to climate change.

We want to make sure this plan reflects your priorities for your community, so please get involved!

Once we've collected your feedback, we will compile it into a "final, living" Climate Adaptation Plan for Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge.

We aim to launch the plan in the summer in conjuction with the Eco Festival, where local people come together to discuss how they would like to take climate action. This will make the towns better adapted than before and encourage more adaptation action across Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge.



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