CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDE



How Norton's households can make a real difference, reduce their carbon footprint, and save money!

Norton Parish Council

CONTENTS

Why take action?	3
How to use this guide	3
Your Home	5
Your Food	15
Your Travel	19
Summary	24

Why take action?

Climate change is one of the biggest issues of our time. But when climate change is described in the media the challenges facing us can seem huge, perhaps almost impossible to achieve. People may question whether any actions they might take will make a difference and, more importantly, how they can make a start. Therefore Norton Parish Council has produced this guide to answer your questions and to demonstrate how action on climate change is within our grasp.

The actions explained in this guide are realistic and achievable and any combination of them can make a difference in tackling climate change. This guide shows that reducing carbon emissions isn't difficult, expensive or likely to have a negative impact on our lives. In fact, it's quite the opposite.

Throughout this guide you will find "benefit boxes" which set out the benefits of specific action on climate change for you personally, including actions which can save you money!

How to use this guide

Everyone has a unique carbon footprint. It is based on factors such as how we travel, what we eat and where we live. The three-step approach used in this guide will help you identify your own personal carbon emissions footprint and direct you to a clear set of actions that you can take.

Follow these three steps to make the most of this guide.

Step 1

Use the World Wide Fund for Nature's carbon footprint calculator (www.footprint.wwf.org.uk) to find out which aspects of your lifestyle have the largest carbon emissions footprint.

(There are other carbon footprint calculators available, but WWF's is easy to use and produces clear results.)

Step 2

You can then compare your emissions to the UK's emissions profile to evaluate your personal carbon footprint.

Step 3

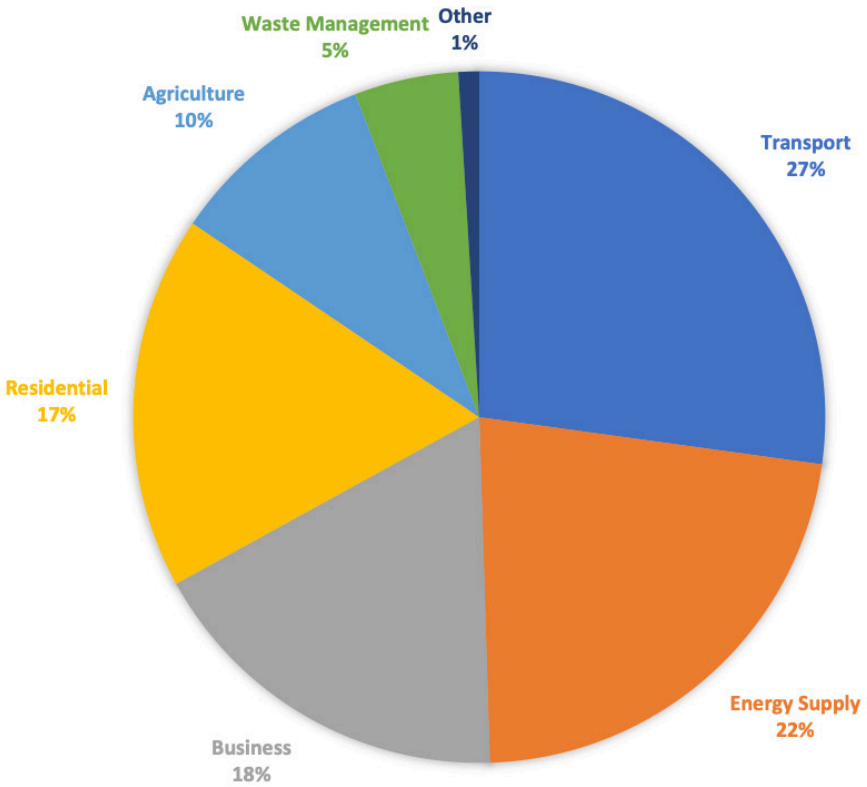
Once you know what your carbon footprint consists of, you can use the relevant sections of this guide to identify the improvement actions you can take. For example, if your home footprint is high, consult the Home section. You can still use all the sections of this guide if you wish, there are no limits on the beneficial actions you can take.

Step 1- What is your carbon footprint?

Knowing your own contribution towards carbon emissions (and then taking relevant actions to address it) is the most effective way that you can tackle climate change.
Once you've completed the questions in the WWF's footprint calculator, you'll be presented with a pie chart which breaks down your emissions thematically.
This breakdown will help you identify the areas that you should prioritise. Step 3 of this guide, which details the actions you can take on climate change, is also divided thematically so that you can use the sections which are particularly relevant to you.

Step 2- How do you compare?

Use your personal pie chart and compare it to the UK as a whole. See below.



Step 3 - Actions you can take

The sections on the next page detail the actions you can take today to tackle climate change. Each section provides guidance on how you can achieve a lower carbon footprint and highlights the benefits you would receive.

Our homes are still predominantly supplied by energy generated by greenhouse gas emitting sources. Consequently, one of our biggest challenges will be to make significant and long-lasting changes in the following areas :

- Energy efficiency
- Energy saving
- Greening our energy supply
- Saving water

Energy efficiency measures

Did you know? 19 million UK homes have poor levels of energy efficiency.

Poor levels of energy efficiency in our homes means that heating and powering them uses more energy than is often required. As a significant proportion of the UK's energy is still largely derived from fossil fuels, more greenhouse gasses are emitted than necessary.
A range of energy efficient measures can be adopted to limit these emissions and keep your home warm, and many of them are set out below. The impact of such measures can range from significant to small, yet any action on the energy efficiency of your household can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted – and save on your energy bill!

Benefits of energy efficiency measures

Installing energy efficient measures can save the average household up to 30% on their energy bills. Insulation, low energy lighting and double glazing can cut energy bills considerably.

How to get started

1 **Low or no cost insulation measures**

These measures are easy to implement and can achieve savings on your energy bill over time:

- Insulate your loft space to up to date standards.
- Fit a heavy curtain over the inside of your front door.
- Fill gaps under skirting boards with newspaper, beading or sealant and put rugs over bare floorboards.
- At night, close the curtains to stop heat being lost through the windows.

- Avoid draping curtains over radiators as this will funnel heat straight out of the windows - you want to heat your home, not the whole street!
- Put draught strips around windows and outside doors and fit a flap across the letterbox.

2 Check the energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of your house

Knowing how efficient your property is will influence the measures you can take towards energy efficiency. An EPC rating has scores ranging from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). A residential EPC is valid for ten years before it needs to be renewed, although it's worth reassessing the rating once you've installed a major energy efficiency measure in your home.

You can find out how to obtain an EPC from the GOV.UK website. (Search under "Energy Performance Certificates".)
Prices of an EPC certificate can vary. However, the savings that can be achieved from any energy efficiency measures you implement as a result of this should more than cover the cost.
If you rent a property, ask the landlord for evidence of an EPC. All rented properties must have a valid EPC.

3 Make sure gas boilers and room heaters work efficiently

A number of these measures can be implemented quickly and could provide significant savings on your energy bills.

- Have gas boilers and associated radiators serviced regularly by a Gas Safe registered engineer. If you rent, your landlord must carry out an annual gas appliance check.
- Fit thermostatic radiator valves to control the temperature of each room. Level 3 represents a "medium" temperature setting but, generally speaking, the recommended room settings are:
  - 1 - unoccupied room or laundry/utility room;
  - 2 - entrance hall or corridor;
  - 2/3 - bedroom;
  - 3 - kitchen;
  - 3/4 - living room, lounge or child's bedroom; and
  - 4 - bathroom.
- Keep your water warm by insulating your hot water pipes, especially between the boiler and the hot water cylinder. Your hot water cylinder should be insulated with a British Standard jacket at least 80mm thick. This could save you at least £60 a year on your energy bill.

3 Make sure gas boilers and room heaters work efficiently

- Consider putting reflective foil behind radiators on internal walls.

Significant energy efficient measures

1 Installing double glazing

Windows are a huge source of potential heat loss in a house. Double glazing is important in preventing this and can cut heat loss through windows by 50%, reducing the need for room heating. They also have the added benefit of significantly cutting down noise and condensation.

2 Insulation

The types of insulation that can be installed include:

- Cavity or solid wall insulation, depending on the type of walls your house has. (Houses built after 1920 generally have cavity walls.) Installation should always be carried out by a professional installer.
- Floor insulation.
- Loft insulation, often using mineral or sheep's wool. You can fit this yourself, using protective equipment and with insulation purchased from most large DIY stores, or use a professional installer. Loft insulation should be fitted to a depth of at least 250mm and, according to the latest Which? research, could save up to £315 a year.
- Draught proofing around doors and window frames.

Find out more about how your home could benefit from insulation by going to GOV.UK and searching under "Green Deal: energy saving for your home".

Home energy grants

1 Grant finder

The availability of grants can often change, but the latest information will be found at www.tewkesbury.org.uk.

Tewkesbury Borough Council, together with the other district councils in Gloucestershire, is working in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency to run the Warm and Well project, offering free energy advice to residents in the county.

Warm and Well administer energy efficiency grants on behalf of the Borough Council, which can be used to make a range of home energy improvements.

1 Subject to eligibility, grants are available for:

- Heating
- Insulation
- Replacement windows/doors
- Renewable energy options such as solar and air source heat pumps.

If your household income is under £30,000 and you privately own or rent an ineffcient property, you could qualify for support. Call Warm and Well free on 0800 500 3076 or find out more at: https://warmandwell.co.uk/grants-and-funding/.

2 **Grants offered by energy suppliers**

Most energy suppliers operate a scheme of grants and discounts for energy efficiency measures. Call the number on your bill to see what's available.

3 **Need to find an installer?**

Link to Energy is an online database designed to help you find sustainable energy installers and tradespeople in your area. It's really simple to use, just enter your postcode and the database will do the rest. You can narrow down the results according to the type of work you're looking to have done, including boiler installation, loft insulation and all forms of renewable energy.
Find out more at https://www.linktoenergy.org.uk/.

Energy saving

It goes without saying that the more energy we save, the better. Reducing our energy and heat consumption may seem like an arduous task given the crucial role they play in our everyday lives. However, there are some simple ways in which we can cut back on our energy use without them having a negative impact on our lives.

Benefits of energy saving

As with installing energy efficiency measures, you can save significant amounts of money on energy bills if you adopt a range of energy saving measures.

Install a smart meter
A smart meter monitors and provides an accurate measure of your energy usage and its cost per day. All energy companies should offer a smart meter to their customers. By having a visual reminder of your energy consumption and the cost, a smart meter can help you to identify ways in which you can reduce your energy usage and save money.

Visit the Money Saving Expert on www.moneysavingexpert.com to learn more and check your eligibility for a smart meter.

Useful links
Money Saving Expert and the Energy Saving Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) have lots of money-saving tips on their website. Both websites contain free advice and are well worth a visit.

Did you know? 3% of the world's energy supply is used to power the servers that store all the emails and photos we send to the "cloud".

General energy saving tips for your home

Turn off your mobile phone or laptop charger as soon as your device is fully charged
Chargers still use energy, even if the device is fully charged.

Don't leave your TV on standby when it's not in use
Standby can use up to 60% of the amount of electricity consumed when your TV is turned on.

Buy energy efficient goods
"Which?", the consumer choice website, has a useful section to help you choose energy efficient products. See the "Which?" website at www.which.co.uk for more information.

Washing machines
Where possible, wait until you have a full load before using your washing machine.
Try washing at 30 degrees.

Lighting in your home
Switch to LED lightbulbs. Compared with previous types of lightbulbs, these use 80% less energy, last 25% longer and still produce the same amount of light.

Switching off lights to prevent unnecessary use
Lighting accounts for 15% of an average household's energy bill so switching off all unnecessary lights can make a big difference.

Program heating and hot water to come on only when you need it
Unless you need superheated water, set your water cylinder thermostat at 60 degrees or below.

Reduce your use of air conditioning (if fitted in your home or business)
As well as decreasing the temperature set on your thermostat, reduce your use of air conditioning as long as it's safe to do so. Air conditioning units are extremely energy intensive, so any reduction in their use will also reduce your energy bills.

Saving energy in your kitchen

Boil the kettle with only as much water as you need
Kettles are very energy intensive so boiling more water in the kettle than you actually need simply wastes energy.

Put lids on your pots and pans when cooking
A saucepan will boil a lot quicker with its lid on and will therefore use less electricity or gas, depending on which type of hob you use.

Is an air fryer right for you?
Air fryers are more energy efficient than using an oven and that means savings on energy bills. They can be a healthier way of cooking too.
Research carried out by national newspapers and consumer organisations last Christmas, found that air fryers were up to three times cheaper to run than a conventional oven. They were quicker to pre-heat and cooked food equally well. However, their capacity is limited because of the size of their drawers.
Investigate the pros and cons of this new kitchen appliance by going to the Which? website (www.which.co.uk) and reading the article headed "Air fryer vs oven".

Use a microwave to heat small amounts of food, rather than using your oven.

Turn your microwave or air fryer off at the plug until you need it.

Regularly defrost your freezer
A build-up of ice in your freezer means that it's not operating efficiently and is working too hard (and therefore using more energy) to keep your food frozen. Avoid putting hot food into the freezer; let food cool down first.

Keep your fridge door closed as much as possible to avoid cold air escaping
Cooling the air in the fridge down again costs valuable energy.

Useful links
For more advice on how to reduce energy in the home, go to the Business Green website at www.businessgreen.com .

Securing a renewable energy supply

Most of the previous suggestions relate to saving energy because of the UK's need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, switching to a renewable energy supply would resolve several issues as renewable energy emits no greenhouse gasses. Over the last few years, renewables have become a cheaper, increasingly reliable source of energy for UK households.

Switching to a green tariff
Energy companies are increasingly offering tariffs supplied by renewable energy because of their improved reliability and reduced cost. A wide range of renewable energy options are available so it's worth searching the internet to see if one is right for you.

Check the tariff options available from your supplier. The source of your energy supply, and whether it's renewable or not, can usually be found on your bill.

Use a price comparison website to find free, independent information on energy suppliers.

Options for a renewable energy supply

Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels
This type of panel only requires daylight, rather than direct sunlight, to work. They should be installed on a south-facing roof and must be unobstructed for maximum efficiency.

Ground source heat pumps
These transfer heat residing below the surface of the ground, which remains at a constant temperature, to the property above. During winter, when the ground temperature is warmer than the house, a heat exchanger transfers those higher temperatures to a heat pump.

Air source heat pumps

These pumps operate on a similar principle to ground source heat pumps and collect heat from the air outside the property.

Consent for heat pumps

The installation of a ground source heat pump on domestic premises is usually considered to be permitted development, and therefore doesn't need planning permission, but building regulation approval may be required. The situation may be different if you live in a listed building or in a conservation area.

Contact Tewkesbury Borough Council's planning department for advice. Go to www.tewkesbury.org.uk and search for "Planning Advice Service".

Renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme

This scheme offers regular payments to householders who generate their own heat from renewable sources. Visit the Energy Savings Trust website: (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) to find out if you're eligible to take part in this scheme.

Important consideration

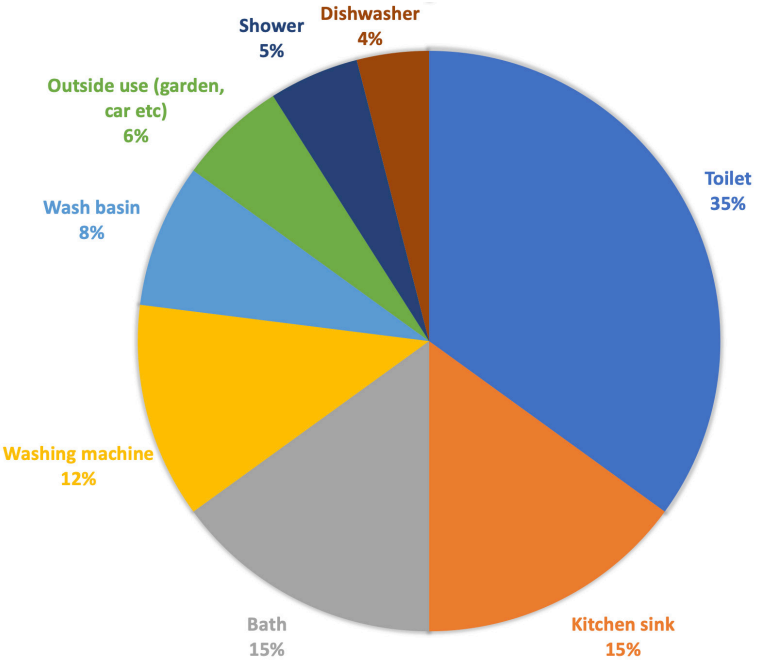
These renewable sources of energy and heating aren't suitable for everyone, so if you're considering this option it's important to take specialist advice before making a decision.

Saving water

A clean and fresh supply of water is a luxury that everyone in the UK enjoys – and perhaps takes for granted as that supply is limited. Experts have warned that the UK runs the risk of losing its unlimited water supply within 25 years.

Ensuring a fresh water supply and treating it requires large amounts of energy. Reducing our water consumption will also have the added benefit of decreasing our energy use.

The chart below shows where (on average) we use the most water in our daily lives. Taking steps to reduce water use, especially in the higher-use categories, will ensure that we save water, save energy and take action on climate change.



Benefits of saving water

The amount we pay in our water bills is determined by our water use. Decreasing your consumption of water can therefore save money on your water bill.

Start saving water

- **Wash clothes at 30 degrees C**
  Doing so uses about 40% less electricity and washes clothes just as well as at a high temperature due to the quality of modern detergents.
- **Run washing machines and dishwashers only on full loads**
- **Dry clothes outside or on an indoor dryer where possible**
  Avoid using a tumble dryer and never dry clothes on radiators.
- **Take a shower rather than a bath**
  Try to ensure that you don't shower for any longer than is necessary. A shower uses less than half the hot water of a bath.
- **Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth**
- **Mend dripping taps**
  A dripping tap could fill a bath in one day.

Visit Affinity Water (www.affinitywater.co.uk) to find out more on how you can save water.

Don’t forget your garden!

As this guide demonstrates, there’s a great deal you can do to make your home energy efficient and reduce your carbon footprint, but don’t forget your garden. You can tackle climate change there too!

Peat-free gardening

Peatlands store carbon, control flooding and create biodiversity, and when peat is extracted from these special landscapes they’re damaged forever. Today, the main purpose for peat extraction is for use in garden compost. The best way to stop this extraction is to help reduce demand for peat by going peat-free in your garden.

For more information on peat-free gardening and the important role it can play in protecting the environment, go to the Royal Horticultural Society’s website (www.rhs.org.uk) or the National Trust’s website (www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

Top tips for peat-free gardening

- Buy peat-free compost for raising plants in pots. Mix it with garden soil for plants that will be in their pots for more than a year.

- Try to buy plants that have been grown in peat-free compost. Sow seeds of hardy plants directly into the soil to reduce the need for pots or compost.

- Be aware that peat is still commonly found in bagged growing media such as multi-purpose composts and growing bags. Always check wording such as “environmentally friendly” or “organic”, as they don’t necessarily mean peat-free.

- Collect fallen leaves and let them rot down into leaf-mould. Mulch bare soil between plants or under shrubs to lock in moisture, stop weeds and enrich the soil. Use homemade garden compost, rather than expensive, bagged multi-purpose or potting compost.

Encouraging biodiversity in your garden

- Avoid cutting lawns too often, or too short, as longer grass is good for insects and water retention.

- Encourage biodiversity by making space in your garden for wild flowers, insects and birds.

- Let nature deal with garden pests, rather than chemicals.

For more information on these environmental issues, go to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust’s website: www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk .

Did you know? Activities related to the Food System account for a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Problem

- Cattle emit greenhouse gasses such as methane, which is associated with the production of red meat and dairy products.
- Deforestation to clear land for agriculture, which releases carbon stored in trees.
- Emissions associated with the transportation of food.
- Production emissions related to growing food out of season.

Solution

The collective dietary decisions we make every day have a significant influence on climate change and present an ideal opportunity for all of us to reduce our carbon footprint and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Did you Know? A study by Oxford University conducted in 2019 suggested that decreasing your meat and dairy consumption could reduce the greenhouses gases associated with your food by up to 73%!

Eat less meat and dairy

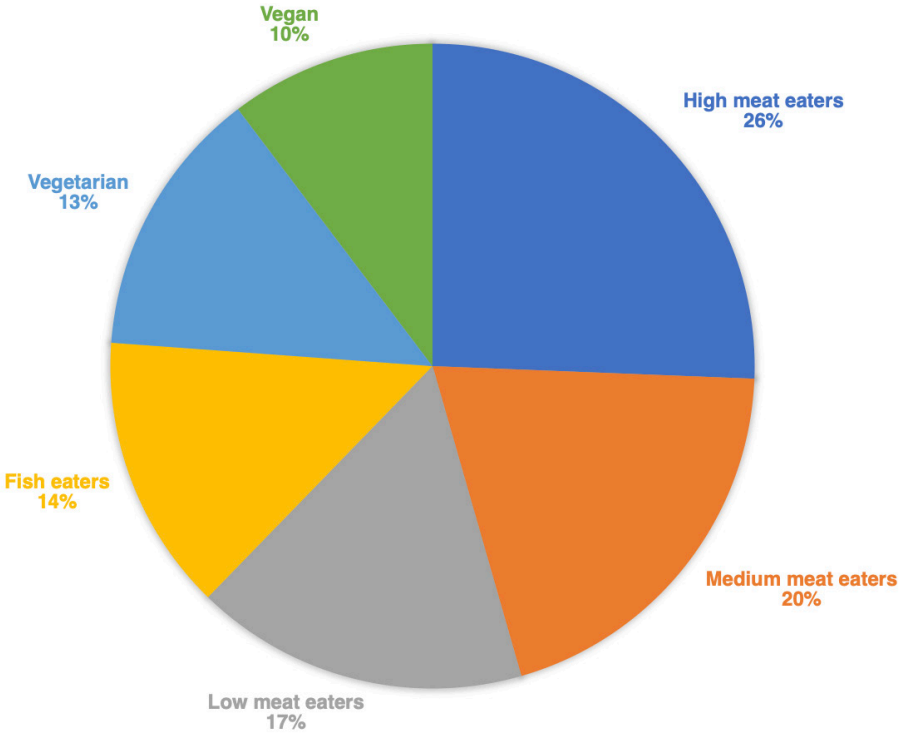
Eat less meat

The choice of whether to consume meat as part of a balanced diet, or adopt a vegetarian or vegan diet, is up to you. As the examples below highlight, a diet with increased fruit and vegetable consumption and a reduced intake of red and processed meat would contribute significantly towards reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

Beef and lamb have a large carbon footprint because the stomachs of cows and sheep contain bacteria that help them digest grass and other foods. Those bacteria create methane, a potent greenhouse gas which is then released into the environment as part of the digestive process.

Daily carbon footprint of different UK diets

(based on 2000kcal per day)



Benefits of reducing meat consumption

High levels of red and processed meat have been associated with increased rates of cancer, type two diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Decreasing the amount of red meat we consume reduces the risk of developing these ailments.

Eat less dairy

Livestock is raised not only for meat, but also for milk. Cows alone represent about 65% of the livestock sector's emissions, followed by pork (9%) and egg-laying poultry (8%).

What is the alternative?

We are capable of deriving energy and nutrients from a wide range of foods: both animal and plant based. The key to good health is a balanced diet comprising a variety of different foods eaten in moderation. Whether you choose to include meat as part of a balanced diet, go vegetarian or vegan is your choice. The BBC Good Food website (www.bbcgoodfood.com) contains guidance on how to maintain a balance in your diet - a balance which ensures that you remain healthy and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Eating more plant-based foods such as beans, pulses and grains are climate-friendly dietary options.

Several high-profile chefs have written cookery books with recipes that highlight how vegetables can be substituted for meat in many popular dishes. BBC Good Food (www.bbcgoodfood.com) also offers a wide range of recipes to get you started.

Almond, oat and soya milk all have a smaller greenhouse gas footprint than cow's milk and offer a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative.

Eat in season

All fruit and vegetables have a season, a time when they are abundant and taste best. Growing fruit and vegetables out of season requires highly intensive farming processes, resulting in high amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits of eating in season

The local economy is the main beneficiary of a shift to eating in season. Supporting local businesses is particularly important as it also provides local jobs for local people. Consequently eating in season can help our local economy to grow, which ultimately benefits us all.

Buy local

- Check food packaging before you buy – the country of origin should be displayed on products such as meat, fruit and vegetables.
- Check local businesses who may offer the same products you usually buy from abroad.

Cut waste associated with food

Wasting food is bad for the environment and your pocket. It's estimated that we waste a third of all our food, meaning that (at 2023 prices) the average household could be throwing away over £1,900 of food every year.

Here are a few tips to cut your waste:

- Plan your shopping and think before you buy. Consider whether you and your family will consume what you buy.
- Only cook the correct quantity.
- Dispose of any food waste in the food caddy provided by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Put the caddy out for collection every week so that its contents can be composted and put to good use.
- Consider buying food for the store cupboard as well as fresh produce.

We often dispose of food that can still be consumed safely. The BBC website (www.bbc.co.uk) provides guidance on when to throw food away.

Did you know? Transport is the largest source of carbon emissions in the UK – a staggering 28% of the total.

Challenge
Emissions from petrol and diesel car journeys.

Solution
We benefit significantly from being increasingly interconnected, from how we travel to work and visit friends and relatives, to being able to access goods in shops on demand. So, how do we keep the benefits of convenient travel while taking action on climate change?

Big reductions in our carbon footprint can be made by changing how we travel. This section suggests actions you can take and helps you to put them into practice.

Cycle or walk more, especially for short trips

Did you know? 68% of trips undertaken are under a distance of five miles, with 19% of trips actually being less than a mile. These short trips contribute disproportionately to carbon emissions and could often be undertaken by walking or cycling instead.

Cycling is an excellent alternative to short car journeys, is good for your health and can be suitable for people of all ages and physical abilities. It's also a low impact form of exercise, which means it will help you get fitter but is gentle on your joints. Cycling can be a great form of travel, as well as being an enjoyable leisure activity for all the family.

Benefits of cycling

At the same time as cutting transport emissions, cycling has significant health benefits too. It can keep you fit as well as reducing the risk of developing illnesses such as type 2 diabetes.

Get started with cycling

If you're not a regular cyclist, suitable training is strongly recommended. Cycling proficiency is important and professional training helps riders learn practical cycling skills and understand how to cycle safely on today's busy roads.

Bikeability cycle training
Founded in 2017, Bikeability is the Government's national cycling training programme and provides training for cyclists of all ages.

Cycling training for schools
Aimed at pupils aged nine years and above, Bikeability's training course provides an introduction to road riding. Training begins by teaching control skills in an off-road environment and then, once riders are competent to control their bikes, moves onto quiet residential roads where they can be taught road positioning, hand signals, right of way and how to deal with other road users. The course uses a logical, confidence building framework.

Adult training
For adults learning to ride, Bikeability offers bespoke training so that participants feel confident to start riding on the road.

For more information on Bikeability and the courses it offers locally go to: www.bikeability.org.uk .

Useful links
To find out more about cycling for pleasure, visit the We are Cycling UK website (www.cyclinguk.org) and www.1st4sport.com.

Know your cycle routes

Cycle paths are indicated by road signs and markings. They may be either on the carriageway, on footways and either shared with or segregated from pedestrians, or specially designed cycle paths.

Explore the national cycle network
Sustrans are the Custodian of The National Cycle Network, which documents traffic-free and quiet roads for you to explore. Go to www.sustrans.org.uk for full details.

Useful links
For information about cycling in Gloucestershire, go to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk and search under "transport" and then "cycling".
To see the Top 20 cycling routes in Gloucestershire, visit www.komoot.com .
For cycling maps, go to www.gps-routes.co.uk .

Walk more, especially for short trips

Did you know? World Health Organisation guidance tells us that everyone needs at least 150 minutes of exercise every week to maintain good health and well-being.
If you walk for a total of 20 minutes a day you'd be close to achieving this.

Particularly for short journeys, walking is an excellent alternative to going by car, if you have the time. Unlike cycling, it's free and doesn't require any specialist equipment. Whether walking becomes part of your daily routine or just for leisure, it's an activity that can significantly reduce dependence on the car and help cut carbon emissions. And it has health benefits too!

Benefits of walking

At the same time as cutting transport emissions, walking has significant health benefits. It can significantly reduce the risk of developing health problems such as type 2 diabetes and asthma.

Walking routes

Whether it's for leisure or part of a commute to work or school, planning your route is important to ensure you are kept safe when doing so. As a result, the following sources may help you.

Ramblers Association (www.ramblers.org.uk). Visit the website to find information on how to join and enjoy Ramblers group walks in Gloucestershire. The Ramblers Association website also provides useful advice on walking safely.
Other top websites for walkers to visit include:

- Living Streets (www.livingstreets.org.uk). The UK charity for everyday walking.
- www.exploregloucestershire.co.uk
- www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk

Use public transport instead of travelling by car

Walking or cycling isn't appropriate for long distance travel, so buses and trains are recommended as the low carbon options. Travelling by public transport reduces congestion on our roads and, crucially, decreases carbon emissions from private vehicles.

Travelling by bus

Norton is served by the 71 bus route provided by Stagecoach West which runs a regular service between Tewkesbury (outside Boots) and Gloucester's Transport Hub. There are several stops in the parish, notably on the A38 near the junction with Church Road, outside the New Dawn Inn and near the Village Hall. Bus timetables (both for the 71 services and for onward routes from the Gloucester Transport Hub) can be found on Stagecoach's website (www.stagecoachbus.com).

Concessionary fares
Stagecoach provides a range of discounted fares which can provide significant savings on your travel. Check your eligibility on their website.

If you need to travel by car, consider an electric vehicle

Electric cars are growing in number and popularity because of their falling operating costs, increasing range and the growing infrastructure to support them. While walking, cycling and public transport will always be the low carbon options, car journeys will usually be convenient for most of your everyday journeys. But when considering your next car, or even your next car journey, ensuring that it is electric will significantly reduce the emissions associated with diesel or petrol cars.

Benefits of electric motoring

Remember that reducing carbon emissions on our roads, not only benefits the environment, it also has a positive effect on the health of people who live close to our major roads.

Young children are particularly susceptible to asthma caused by exhaust fumes from diesel and petrol cars.

Charging an electric car
An electric car is different from a diesel or petrol car because of refuelling. Charging an electric car will often be done at home, although charging points are increasingly being installed in supermarket and shopping centre car parks, for example outside the new Co-op grocery store in Twigworth and the Gallagher Retail Park on the outskirts of Cheltenham.

Government grants are available to install charging points in your home. Go to GOV.UK and search for “EV chargepoint grants” under “Grant schemes for electric vehicle charging infrastructure”.

Additionally, some electric vehicle manufacturers will even install a home charging unit free of charge when you purchase an electric car from them.

The government has recently updated the rules on the sale of new non-electric vehicles. The sale of new diesel and petrol cars (as well as plug-in hybrids) will now be banned in the UK from 2035.

Visit GOV.UK for more information on the Government’s initiative to promote low emission and electric vehicles.

Drive smart

We should all learn to “drive smart”. Drive smart measures include:

- Remove unnecessary weight from cars (including roof boxes when not in use) to improve fuel efficiency.
- Check that tyres are inflated to the correct pressure. This will result in better mileage, cheaper maintenance costs and a reduced environmental impact.
- Slowing your traffic speed by 6mph can improve your car’s fuel consumption by 25%.

Benefits of driving smart

Improving your car’s fuel consumption and efficiency will save you money in the long term.

SUMMARY

To help Norton tackle climate change, these are the key messages to remember – and act on!

YOUR HOME



- Energy efficiency measures.
- Energy saving.
- Greening your energy supply.
- Saving water.
- Peat-free gardening.

YOUR FOOD

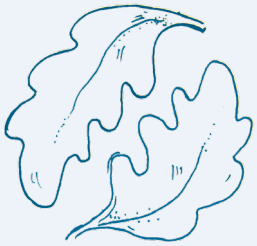


- Eat less meat and dairy.
- Eat food in season.
- Buy local.
- Check food packaging and consume by dates.
- Reduce food waste.

YOUR TRAVEL



- Cycle more, especially for short trips.
- Walk more, especially for short trips.
- Use public transport where possible, instead of travelling by car.
- Consider an electric car.
- If your car is petrol or diesel, drive “smart”.



We hope that you’ll find this guide useful and helpful. Working together, Norton’s residents, supported by the Parish Council, have a role to play in reducing our carbon footprint and, as a consequence, improve the quality of life for everyone in the parish. As a major supermarket says: “every little helps”.

© Norton Parish Council, 2023